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Agawam Public Li
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Advertiser News

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December 4, 1997

The Turkey Was Again Sweet



PRE-GAME PEP TALK: Agawam High varsity football Coach Dean Vecchiarelli (center) addresses his troops prior to the Annual Thanksgiving morning game vs. West Springfield at Harmon Smith Field. Over 3,500 fans attended and watched the Brownies use a huge fourth quarter to defeat the Terriers, 27-8. SEE STORY AND PHOTOS IN SPORTS. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM HIGH CHEERLEADERS (a.k.a. Agawam football moms) perform a routine at the Annual Bonfire Pep Rally at Harmon Smith Field last Wednesday evening. AHS defeated West Side on Thanksgiving morning, 27-8. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Town Gets First Look At Design For Agawam State Veterans' Cemetery...

More Details Released On Vets' Cemetery

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Planners of the first state veterans' cemetery want to create a shrine that will be a place of honor and dignity for the final resting place of Massachusetts veterans.

Last week, designers of the veterans' burial ground unveiled their plans for a memorial chapel, an administration building, and a memorial walkway winding through the wooded areas of the 61-plus-acre site donated by Agawam farmer Edward Squazza.

Veterans' Services Director of External Affairs Robert McKean said the value of the land (\$825,000), coupled with matching federal government funds (\$412,000), makes Mr. Squazza's gift worth \$1.2 million to the state's veterans.

McKean said the mission of the cemetery will be to "serve state veterans by meeting their final needs with compassion and dignity. We will deliver services in a manner reflecting compassion and respect for you and for your families in time of need."

McKean pledged to provide veterans with accurate eligibility information, headstones, and markers that will be accurate, an accurate computerized gravesite locator for visitors to the cemetery, and explanations for all policies.

"The appearance of headstones and markers will be maintained in a manner that will be a shrine to our veterans that the state can be proud of," McKean promised.

Project Is Right On Schedule...

Landscape designer Joseph G. Sporko of the LA Group of Sarasota Springs, New York, said the project is on schedule. The construction drawings are expected to be complete by the end of the summer. Construction should begin next fall, and the cemetery should be open in the spring of 2000.

Agawam Veterans' Agent Ruth Bitzas has a specific date in mind for the opening ceremonies. "I am envisioning a beautiful Memorial Day in the year 2000 for the dedication of the cemetery," Mrs. Bitzas said. "We should combine our town ceremony with the state and with all of Western Massachusetts. We're hoping the dedication will be even more impressive than what people saw at the groundbreaking in October."

The cemetery is expected to hold 30,000 gravesites and will offer two types of interments: full-casket gravesites and niches in the ground, as well as in columbarium walls (aboveground) for cremated remains.

The entrance to the cemetery will be on Main Street and will be incorporated into the signalized intersection of Main Street and River Road. There will be a boulevard entry to the formal oval area which will serve as the area for ceremonies. The administration building will sit on one side of the grassy area opposite the flag and assembly area.

SEE CEMETERY - Page 2...



SHOWING OFF DESIGN PLANS for the State Veterans' Cemetery off Main Street, Agawam, are, from left - Darrell Meehl, landscape architect; Lena Kozloski (formerly of Agawam), architect; Joseph G. Sporko, landscape architect; Bob McKean, director of External Affairs, Mass. Dept. of Veteran Services; Linda J. Melconian, state senator; and Ruth Bitzas, Agawam veterans' agent. Advertiser News photos by

Jack Devine.

CEMETERY - from Page 1...

The road will continue through the property and will include circles and turn-arounds so the road can be ended at one phase and extended in the future.

A centrally located veterans' memorial area will be connected to a pathway winding through the woods with a footbridge crossing over Three Mile Brook and connecting to the chapel area. There will be places for plaques and memorials donated by various veterans' groups along the pathway. There will be barrier-free access in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Compatible With Regional Character...

Sporko said the landscape would be compatible with regional character, history, and culture and had been designed to be environmentally sen-

sitive to minimize impacts on land, water, and views.

Primary architect Peter Kuttner of Cambridge Seven Associates displayed drawings of the administration building, the memorial chapel, and the maintenance building.

The administration building will be constructed of regional materials and will fit in the neighborhood, Kuttner said. The walls will be of brick masonry with white colonial style columns and white trim.

The chapel will be a single room capable of holding 65 to 70 people and will be located next to the administration building. Glass walls on the front and back of the chapel will afford visitors a view of the flag and assembly area in the front, as well as a view of the woods in back. The

maintenance building will be constructed of concrete walls topped with a metal roof, Kuttner said.

McKean said the eligibility requirements would mirror those of national veterans' cemeteries. Some of the requirements will be discharge under honorable conditions or 20 years' service in the National Guard and Massachusetts residency at the time of enlistment or five consecutive years of Massachusetts residency after discharge.

Preregistration forms are being prepared so that the necessary documentation can be in order and on file at the time of a veteran's death. The forms are currently in the draft stage and are expected to be ready after the first of the year.

"Some funeral directors are already holding remains for burial when the cemetery opens," McKean said.

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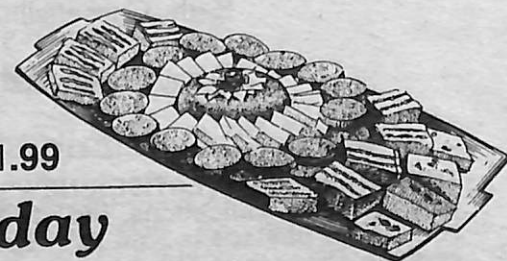
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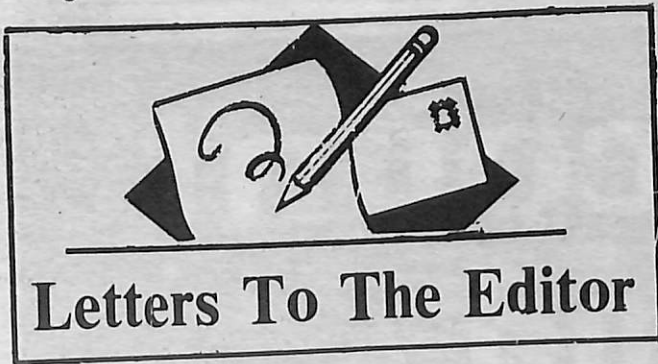
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Family Of Alfred Forni Thankful For Support

To The Editor:

To Our Friends In Agawam:

We were touched by the overwhelming show of love and genuine concern for our family during our recent time of sorrow.

Whether you sent food or flowers, attended the services, or called with thoughts and prayers, your support was greatly appreciated.

At this time, we would also like to thank the Agawam Fire Dept., EMT's, and the Agawam Police Department for their quick and professional response.

With Much Appreciation,
The Family Of Alfred J. Forni

Congratulations In Order For Darcy Davis & WWII Program

To The Editor:

We would like to congratulate the Agawam High School, Mr. Davis, and all who participated in that wonderful "World War II Program" Wednesday night, Nov. 19th at the AHS auditorium.

We brought some friends with us from Southwick and we all sang and cried and applauded and thoroughly enjoyed everything! It brought back some memories we thought we had buried long ago.

When the song, "When the Lights Go On Again" was sung, we remembered my father being a warden for the neighborhood and making sure everyone's blackout curtains didn't let any light show through that an enemy plane could use as a target.

Mr. Files' people's rendition of "String of Pearls" was fantastic! All the seniors' and pupils' songs were wonderful! (However, we thought we might hear "Ki-Ki-Katy, Beautiful Katy").

The end, with all the branches of the services represented, was very moving and those who missed it really missed a terrific ending to a terrific night.

I have never been prouder of Agawam High and everyone associated with this performance!

The auditorium was full and it was difficult to find a seat! The parking was a nightmare with all the construction going on, yet we were so glad we were there and didn't miss such a performance!

Yours Truly,
Don & Barbara Capponcelli
Agawam

The People Have Spoken; Let's Get On With It

To The Editor:

After reading some of the letters sent to "Letters to the Editor," I felt I had to put my "two cents" in also.

The people that continue to be critical of things in our town just won't give up.

No matter how you slice it, we had our election, the people voted, regardless of percentages, the Berkshire Power referendum was passed, and Mayor Johnson was voted in again.

THAT'S IT - THE PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN - LET'S MOVE ON.

H. Bobeck
Feeding Hills

District Learning Team To Meet On December 8th

To The Editor:

A unique, hard-working and enthusiastic group called the Agawam District Learning Team (DLT) is holding its monthly meeting on Monday, December 8, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. in the Agawam Junior High cafeteria.

This is a group that consists of School Committee members, the Superintendent of Schools, principals, teachers, parents, high school students, and community members.

Its goal to help in the restructuring of the Agawam schools to provide the best education there can possibly be. Please come to the meeting and see what we are all about. Our present discussion is centered around "class size."

Everyone is invited. We need as much input as we can get. Thank you very much!

Sincerely,
The Agawam District Learning Team

Jr. Women Say Thanks For Thanksgiving Basket Help

To The Editor:

Thank you for your generous support for the Thanksgiving baskets, but our work is not yet done! Very little food was left for the Christmas baskets.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is still in need of food and toys for Christmas. We are expecting close to 50 baskets which will be delivered to Feeding Hills and Agawam residents in need, including some of our elderly.

You met our urgent cry for help the week before Thanksgiving and baskets were filled. Let's do it one more time for Christmas.

We are looking to fill each basket with one Thanksgiving dinner and enough food to feed a family of four for a week. We need the following items: canned vegetables, cereal, onions, pumpkin pie filling, food in jars, cake mixes, apples, stuffing mix, pasta, potatoes, cranberry sauce.

These items may be left at the following drop-off places: Fitness First, Ayre Real Estate, Feeding Hills Public Market, Agawam Senior Center, Granger School office, Westfield Savings Bank, Agawam Public Market, The Deli on Main Street, Agawam Town Hall, Agawam Public Library.

If you wish to make a perishable donation of a 10-pound turkey or a three-pound ham, please call Joyce at 786-3327 or Dee at 786-9085 after 5:00 p.m.

For the Christmas baskets, we often include toys for the children. If you wish to donate a toy, you may leave it in the same drop-off box at one of the places listed above for food. Also, every year, our Club looks for caring individuals to sponsor a child (or children) of one of these needy families. Sponsors are asked to purchase one item of clothing for that child (or children) which is wrapped and added to the family's holiday basket. To sponsor a child, call Eileen at 789-2818 or Stephanie at 786-4578.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is an equal opportunity volunteer organization and a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the General Federation of Women's Clubs of Massachusetts.

Agawam Junior Women's Club

Keenan Announces Expansion Of Health Coverage

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is proud to have added his support to the Legislature's approval of legislation to expand health coverage for children and seniors in Massachusetts. As a result of the bill's enactment, the state can access up to \$45 million in new federal revenue.

The bill will expand the Commonwealth's Medicaid program, MassHealth, to cover some 35,000 additional children in low- and moderate-income families; increase benefits for up to 40,000 seniors eligible for prescription drug assistance through the Senior Pharmacy Program; and improve the benefits provided by the Children's Medical Security Plan.

When fully implemented in 1998, every child in Massachusetts will be eligible for health coverage.

"We are ensuring the future of all generations in communities across the state," stated Keenan. "Providing quality health care to those who are in need the most will improve their quality of life."

Keenan concluded that no new state appropriations are required to implement this legislation.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 11, 1997 at 7:15 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing is to hear the petition of Premier Parks, Inc. for work to be performed on Main Street, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: December 4, 1997

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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Friday, December 5th
Agawam Cultural council presents the "Russian Evangelical Choir" (music for all seasons)
At Agawam Baptist Church, Main St., Agawam
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 6th
Annual Christmas Bazaar by Catholic Women's Club of Agawam and St. John's Guild
At St. John's Parish Ctr., 833 Main St., Agawam
Snack bar: 9 to 11 a.m.; Lunch: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturday, December 6th
"Holiday Bazaar" sponsored by the
Agawam Senior Games Athletes (ASGA)
At Agawam Senior Ctr., Meadowbrook Manor
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Monday, December 8th
Monthly meeting of the
Catholic Women's Club of Agawam
At St. John the Evangelist Parish Center
7:30 p.m.
(Bring exchange gifts with a \$5 value)

Monday, December 8th
"Financial Aid Night"
for parents and students
At AHS cafeteria
7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

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No Specific Dollar Amount Included In The Vote...

Council Requires Berkshire Power To Post Performance Bond

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

At Monday night's meeting, Town Council unanimously passed a resolution requiring Berkshire Power to post a bond sufficient to cover demolition cost of any structures built while an appeal of its right to construct a \$185 million power plant is pending before the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court.

The eight councilors present voted in favor of requiring the performance bond, but no specific dollar amount was included in the vote and there remains some uncertainty as to whether the council can enforce such a bond requirement.

Council President Kent Servis said the Building Department will determine the amount of the bond.

Berkshire Power spokesman Anthony Cignoli said company attorneys are checking to determine if the council can impose a bond on the project.

"We've already gone through a million hoops and hurdles to complete this project," Cignoli said.

Voting in favor were Servis, Council Vice-President Edward Caba, and Councilors George Bitzas, Dennis Perry, David Skolnick, Chris Quatrone, Gary Suffriti, and Thomas Ennis. Councilors Nancy Thompson, Joseph Langone, and Jill Simpson were absent.

This is the first time the council has required such a bond. Usually, developers are told they must post a performance bond by the Planning Board as part of the permitting process in order to obtain a building permit.

But, Berkshire Power received an exemption from local zoning regulations in a decision by the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities in October.

That decision has been appealed at the state Supreme Judicial Court in a motion filed on behalf of Antonio & Maria Cuccovia of Agawam, the sole remaining intervenors in the legal battle to prevent the construction of the power plant on Moylan Lane.

Concerned Citizens and Businesses of Agawam (CCBA) spokesman Karl Stieg said, "We feel very strongly that the appeal will come out in our favor."

Caba said the council owed it to the citizens to force Berkshire Power to post the performance bond "in the event we are successful. We don't want any remnants to remind us of this fiasco."

Suffriti said it was common sense for the council to take the same "what if" stance which the town takes in requiring developers to post a performance bond. "I don't understand why with something of this magnitude you'd take a chance," Suffriti said.

Suffriti said he hoped Berkshire Power would have all its permits in place, including the oil storage license, before "any shovel goes into the ground."

Cignoli said he expected the company would hold a ceremonial groundbreaking in December, but would not move forward with heavy earth-moving equipment due to the time of year.

Recount Affirms November 4th Results...

Tuesday evening's recount of the power plant referendum affirmed the results of the November 4th election — with one small discrepancy. Berkshire Power picked up one vote for a final tally of 3,938 (51 percent) in favor of the plant and 3,761 (49 percent) against.

Power plant opponents petitioned for the recount, citing the closeness of the vote and con-

cern that mistakes could have been made in the election night count as reasons for the recount.

Cignoli said, "Our feeling is the opponents had every right to take a look at the vote. Obviously, we're happy with the outcome."

Having been involved in several recounts in various parts of the country, Cignoli commended Town Clerk Richard Theroux for the accuracy of the election.

"Agawam has got to have a pretty good electioneering system in place to be so exactly on the mark. Sometimes we've seen a difference of as many as 20 or 30 votes in a recount," Cignoli said.

Theroux said he was "very pleased" with the recount. "On election day, everything went smoothly and the recount was a double check for us," Theroux said.

With Servis, Caba, and Stieg (representing the CCBA) monitoring the recount process, Theroux said no mistakes were found on the sheets taken from the voting machines.

However, the tally in Precinct 6 found one additional vote in favor of the plant.

Although power plant opponents have questioned why some people did not vote on the ballot question, Theroux said it is impossible to know if voters didn't see the question or just didn't care to vote on it, as in the case of some absentee ballots where the question was left blank.

Theroux said 9,060 voters cast ballots in the election and 7,699 voted on the ballot question. "That means that 85 percent of the voters answered the ballot question," Theroux said.

The recount cost the town about \$100 in clerical overtime, Theroux said.

Cignoli said the company expects financial closing on the project before Christmas.



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WORKING ON THE "MOCK" emergency at Fisher Scientific on Wednesday, November 26th included, from left - Lt. Robert Rossi, Agawam Police Dept.; Lt. Larry Grady, Agawam Fire Dept.; Deputy Chief Steve Martin, Agawam Fire Dept.; Kevin Quinn, Fisher Scientific; and firefighter Jim Sibilia, Agawam Fire Dept. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM FIRE DEPARTMENT EMT Ken Robishaw assists "mock" patient Karen Wilson who was injured at the "mock" emergency at Fisher Scientific at the Agawam Regional Industrial Park. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Mock Emergency Brings Haz Mat To Industrial Park

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

The morning before Thanksgiving, Kevin Quinn, facility engineer at Fisher Scientific, picked up the phone and dialed 911 at nine o'clock.

Within five minutes, the first of two Agawam Fire Department pump trucks arrived with paramedics at the industrial park location of the huge laboratory supply warehouse.

Deputy Chief Steve Martin was on site, evaluating the situation and calling for the assistance of the Regional Hazardous Materials Team within seven minutes. By 9:30, the Regional Haz Mat Team was on-site and working hand-in-hand with the AFD firefighters and the emergency response team from Fisher Scientific to contain and control a toxic gas cloud.

Crisis Situation Test

It was a worst-case scenario created to test the lab supply company's emergency preparedness and the ability of the AFD and the District Four Regional Hazardous Materials Team to respond in a crisis situation.

The Fisher Scientific warehouse is located in the Agawam Regional Industrial Park and serves as a shipper and receiver of academic and scientific products for distribution in the Northeast. The company is licensed to store up to 60,000 gallons of flammable liquids on site. Some of the products are classified as corrosives and oxidizers.

All of the hazardous materials are packaged in small containers, ranging in size from one-liter bottles to 55-gallon drums. The flammable liquids are stored inside the warehouse in a vault which has a sprinklered foam suppression system.

"It was an outstanding drill," Quinn said. "We had a good mix of our people working with the firefighters. We have very similar command structures; for instance, I have a safety officer and a decontamination officer just as the Fire Department does and they worked hand-in-hand."

Agawam firefighters were joined by firefighters from 11 departments across Hampden and Hampshire County in a monthly drill that also brought in the Agawam Police Department and State Police.

Within two-and-a-half hours of the 911 call, the situation was under control and the teams headed to an afternoon critiquing session at the State Police Academy in Feeding Hills.

SEE MOCK EMERGENCY - Page 7...



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We open weekdays at 6:30 a.m.*

MOCK EMERGENCY - from Page 6...**Communication & Cooperation**

"The main thing is to get the different agencies together and make sure of the communication and cooperation between the agencies," Martin said. "Everything went pretty much as we'd planned."

Quinn said the exercise had been planned as the worst possible scenario in which everything that could possibly go wrong had occurred. The "accident" occurred on the loading dock where a forklift operator caused the spill of a 55-gallon drum of ammonium hydroxide, and the breakage of six one-gallon bottles of hydrofluoric acid (resulting in a toxic gas cloud).

Quinn said the containers of chemicals actually contained water and no one was ever in any danger during the drill.

Even though the accident was a simulation, the response from the emergency teams was the real thing, down to the "treatment" given to the "injured" forklift operator.

"We had to decontaminate the patient before loading her into the ambulance for transport to the hospital and we made sure to fill out and attach a materials safety data sheet to alert the hospital as to what materials had been involved so that they would be better able to treat her," Quinn said.

Martin said the state created six regional Haz Mat teams in 1990. The District 4 Team has 45 firefighters, including eight from Agawam, trained to the level of hazardous materials technician. Other participating fire departments included West Springfield, Westfield, Holyoke, Chicopee, Ludlow, Longmeadow, Amherst, Easthampton, Northampton, and Wilbraham.

"The team is on call at all times and strives to maintain a steady state of readiness and excellence through monthly drills," Martin said.

JACK DEVINE needs at least 48 hours to cover your event. Call Jack at 789-0053. Thanks.



MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS TEAM are hard at work at the "mock" emergency at Fisher Scientific at the Agawam Regional Industrial Park. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Rosemary Sandlin Is Elected To State Board Of Directors

Rosemary Sandlin, currently serving as vice-chair of the Agawam School Committee, was elected to the Massachusetts Association of School Committees (MASC) Board of Directors at the Association's annual joint conference on November 6th. Ms. Sandlin will serve as chair of MASC's Division V-Connecticut Valley geographical region, effective January 1st.

A graduate of the Agawam Public Schools, Ms. Sandlin has been a strong advocate for early childhood programs in the district, calling recently for a study of a full-day kindergarten option. She has also worked actively for children and families in the district.

For 15 years, she has advocated for affordable elderly and family housing as a member of the Agawam Housing Authority, and has also been involved in many volunteer efforts including the Agawam Athletic Association, the Agawam Rotary Club, and the Melconian Charity Golf Tournament Committee which recently raised over \$150,000 for battered women in Hampden County.

In recognition of her many contributions to the community, Ms. Sandlin was named the Agawam Jaycee's "Woman of the Year."

Ms. Sandlin is currently chief of staff to Senate Assistant Majority Leader Senator Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield). She also serves as treasurer of the Agawam Housing Authority, chair of Brightwood Development Corporation, a member of Springfield Action Commission's Advisory Council, and was recently appointed to fill a two-year term on the Democratic State Committee.

A resident of Agawam, Ms. Sandlin is the proud mother of four children and three grandchildren.

MASC is a non-profit organization that represents more than 2,100 Massachusetts school committee members in over 330 local and regional school districts throughout the commonwealth, providing its members a wide range of training programs, policy development, and administrator search services, as well as legal and advocacy support.

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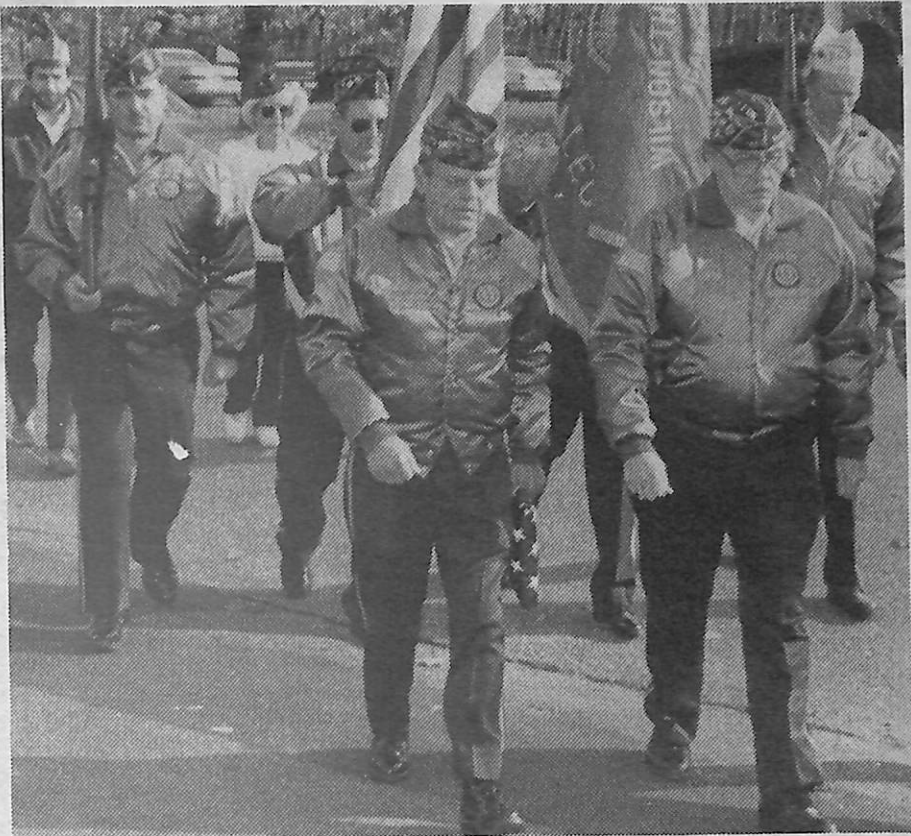
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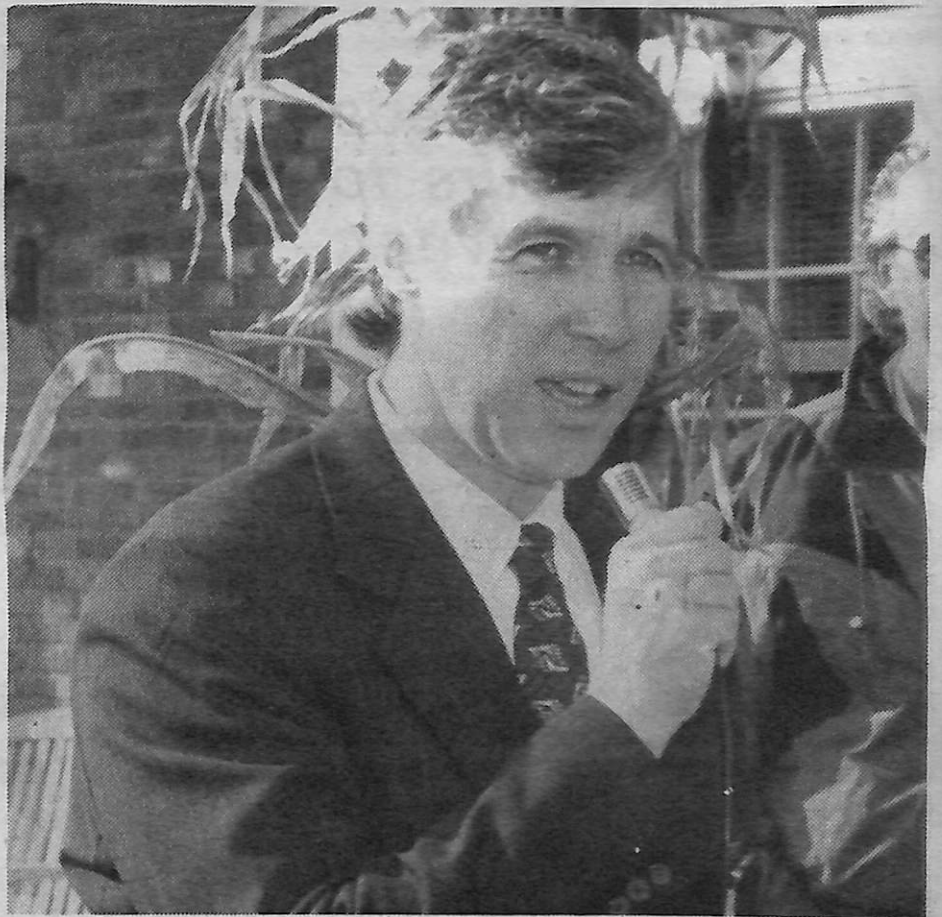
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A CEREMONY to celebrate Veterans' Day was held on the grounds of Heritage Hall Nursing Home. IN TOP PHOTO, members of the American Legion Honor Guard march in procession; IN PHOTO BELOW, Monica Caldwell sings the national anthem as Agawam Veterans' Agent Ruth Bitzas looks on. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

IN PHOTO ABOVE, Rose Garneau, a resident of Heritage Hall Nursing Home, receives an American flag from former Agawam American Legion Commander Edward Brown at a recent Veterans' Day observance held on the grounds of Heritage Hall; in photo below, William Stafford addresses the gathering. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Veterans' Ceremony Held At Heritage Hall

A Prayer By Vera Conway

As this great holiday approaches, we take this opportunity to express some thoughts we hope will find response in your heart.

AMERICA IS OUR HOME!

Though we may find fault with the structure of our government...

OUR GOVERNMENT DOES WORK!

Though we complain of the cost of food...

WE HAVE PLENTY TO EAT!

Though we may differ with an individual's religious background...

WE ARE FREE TO WORSHIP IN ANY CHURCH/SYNAGOGUE IN THE NATION!
Though we may harbor feelings of insecurity...

WE HAVE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

IF WE WORK AT A JOB, AN EDUCATION.

Rich or not rich, we spend the same dollar.

No one person controls:

- * How we should think.
- * What job we must work at.
- * What material comforts we may own.

Therefore, we ask...

- * That you speak positively of our land!
- * That you strive to correct what you see that is weak.
- * That you close out the world from time to time to love the people in your own house.
- * That you shake your neighbor's hand once in a while to let him know you care; and...
- * Pray that we never become too sophisticated a nation to bend our head and give thanks to the one who grants us this great gift of freedom.

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Melconian Reviews Legislation Passed & Pending For 1997

As the Senate concluded its 1997 legislative year, Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) reviewed the bills that have been passed, and those that will be a high priority when the Legislature reconvenes in January 1998.

She noted that "while there is more to do, the last two months have brought meaningful improvements to the people and businesses of Massachusetts."

Senate President Thomas Birmingham noted that, "With energy and dedication, the Senate acted on a wide array of issues. The bills we passed affect us as a society, and as an economy, and range from protecting children to promoting job growth. Due to welcome rule changes in the legislative process, bills will be carried over from this year to next rather than starting all over again."

"Our commitment to protecting members of society least able to defend themselves was evidenced by a number of initiatives," Senator Melconian said. The Legislature enacted Melconian's bill prohibiting the court to order visitation of children by parents who murder spouses ("Liz-zie's Law"). That became law and two other bills passed by the Senate and before the House, seek to "punish those who are guilty of destroying innocence." One bill clarifies the definition of, and increasing penalties for, assault and battery on a child. The other makes possession of child pornography a crime, and creates penalties.

"In addition to these attentions to the well-being of children, the Legislature approved a major children's health care bill," Melconian explained. She was referring to a bill that "basically will bring universal health care to Massachusetts residents under 19 by extending coverage to families with income up to 200 percent of the poverty level. This bill is a significant and welcome step on the road to making health care available to all," Melconian said.

"This health care proposal also helps low-income seniors by increasing the Commonwealth's new pharmacy drug assistance coverage from \$500 to \$750, and removing restrictions on purchases," Melconian said. "The Senate also passed legislation creating an important protection for the elderly and disabled who rely upon home health care."

"We propose establishing a central abuse registry," she said, "to identify home health care workers who are abusive and prevent further intolerable incidents." The passage of the Bill of Rights for the Mentally Ill provides protections for those in mental health facilities.

The business climate in the Commonwealth benefited from a \$194 million cut in unemployment insurance rates. "It is a point of pride," Melconian said, "that the Senate ensured that unemployment benefits for working people were protected at the same time we helped businesses with this rate reduction."

Melconian is also pleased with the override of Governor Cellucci's veto of the Convention Center legislation, which included \$25 million for the Basketball Hall of Fame and \$48.5 million for the Springfield Convention Center.

"These various bills have all been taken up in the past two months. We've been able to address some of the most pressing issues facing the families and businesses of the Commonwealth," Melconian said, "and I look forward to continuing these efforts next year."

School Board To Next Meet On Dec. 9th

The Agawam School Committee will hold a meeting on Tuesday, December 9, 1997 in the Agawam Middle School Auditorium, 68 Main Street, at 7:30 p.m.

Old Business to be discussed: SCR-98-8 -Adoption of School Improvement Plans.

best
local
news

Melconian Supports Deregulation Of Electric Industry

Senate Assistant Majority Leader Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) has announced that the Massachusetts Legislature recently gave final approval to Energy Deregulation legislation, which will provide for competition in the industry and grant consumers an initial 10-15 percent rate reduction.

"Achieving energy deregulation in Massachusetts is a monumental accomplishment as we enter the 21st century," Melconian said. "We are now one of the first states to achieve competition, while maintaining consumer protections, rate reductions, and quality of service."

Under the new law, electric utility generation must be opened for competition by March 1, 1998. Consumers who choose not to compete and remain with their current utilities are guaranteed an initial 10 percent rate reduction. Once utilities complete divestiture of their generating facilities and obtain capital through an investment process, that rate reduction will approach 15 percent.

"Consumers will receive real rate reductions," Melconian said. "In addition to the consumer savings, Massachusetts has now showcased to the rest of the country its business friendly atmosphere."

The new law will also establish and protect enhanced programs for low-income and other residents in need through discounted rates. For all consumers, the quality and reliability of service and service response will be required to be the same or better than existing service standards.

"There are consumer protections in place, especially for low-income ratepayers," Melconian said. "Deregulation is a national trend, but it needs to be done carefully so that everyone can benefit."

Chicopee Municipal Light Company will be exempted from competition, as long as the utility does not sell electricity outside of the city.

Keenan Has Brochure On Fuel Assistance, Energy Info, Etc.

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan is pleased to provide the Citizens Energy Corporation 1997-1998 Guide to Fuel Assistance, Healthcare Resources, and Energy Information to assist members of the community who need help meeting their most essential needs.

This brochure contains information about the State Fuel Assistance Program (and its new High Energy Pilot Program), utility rights and discounts, and oil buying groups. Also included in the brochure is a section to inform readers about healthcare resources including the Senior Pharmacy Program, the MassHealth Program, and/or Children's Medical Security Plan.

To obtain a brochure with information to help families prepare for this winter and the new year ahead, please call Rep. Keenan's district office at (413) 786-4545.

FireWise...

by Fire Chief David Pisano
It's Important To Test Your Emergency Fire Exits

More people die from home fires than any other kind. Over 5,000 people perish every year in home fires because they don't know what to do. Hopefully, your family has prepared and practiced a Home Fire Escape Plan.

One important part of such a plan is locating and learning to use emergency ways out and alternate routes to safety. The Agawam Fire Department suggests that you practice using emergency exits to make sure they are usable. It's too late to discover your window is stuck shut and won't open when a fire has occurred.

In most homes and apartments, emergency exits are usually windows or stairways. Make sure windows can be opened and that screens and storm windows can be removed from the inside.

Make sure children can operate locks and know to get out quickly, not to wait for you. If they cannot get out, they should know to wait at the window for help, where the firefighters can see them. Make sure everybody learns to stay low and crawl to the nearest exit.

If bedrooms are on the second floor, provide folding ladders. Most fatal home fires begin at night while we are asleep. Escape ladders can be made of light rope. Metal ladders made for escape can be purchased at most hardware stores. Although most people plan to tie bedsheets together to form a rope, there is usually not time to do that in a fire. Jumping from second-story windows can cause severe injuries.

If you live in an apartment or condominium and your enclosed stairways are your emergency exits, practice finding these in the dark. First, count the number of doors from your room to the exit stairway. You probably won't be able to see the exit sign above the door through smoke.

Once in the stairway, go down to the outside. Go up to the roof only if you are forced by smoke. Most fire departments do not have helicopters ready to scoop you off rooftops. Remember, do not block the exit stairway doors open. Once smoke enters the stairway, your escape route is not safe.

Your family may have several alternate routes to take in case of fire. Make sure you practice all of them as much as possible. Fast actions are needed in a fire, and trained responded help those happen.

If your family does not have a Home Fire Escape Plan, contact the Agawam Fire Department at 786-2662 for information and assistance in developing a plan for your home.

State Rep. Keenan Will Be Hosting A Holiday Open House

State Representative Daniel F. Keenan will be hosting a holiday open house on Friday, December 19th, from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. at his district office at 342 Springfield Street, Agawam.

You are cordially invited to join the celebration of the holiday season. Please stop by to enjoy casual conversation and refreshments.



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Agawam Obituaries

Dr. Eber A. Wein

Dr. Eber A. Wein, 78, of 40 White Oaks Drive, Longmeadow, formerly of Agawam, died at Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

He was in private practice in Agawam from 1955 until retiring in 1981. He previously practiced in Chicago and did public health service on Indian reservations in Wyoming and Montana.

Born in Laconia, New Hampshire, he graduated from the University of New Hampshire and Chicago Medical School. He was a volunteer at the neurological unit at Western Massachusetts Hospital.

He was on the board of directors at Stavros in Amherst. He was a member of Mended Hearts, Owl Literacy Program, and was an Ombudsman at Heritage Nursing Home under the Greater Springfield Senior Citizens Service. He was a member of Temple Beth El in Springfield.

His wife, Esther A. Wein, died in 1990. He leaves his wife, Beverly (Tillman) Wein; two sons, Bruce of Scarsdale, New York and Alan of Jamaica Plains, Boston; a daughter, Sandra Halperin of Chestnut Hill and seven grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Temple Beth El with burial in the Beth El Cemetery in West Springfield. The Harold R. Ascher and Son was in charge.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Massachusetts, Tottem Pond Road, Waltham, MA 02205 or to Western Massachusetts Hospital Neurological Unit, Westfield, MA 01085 or to Temple Beth El, 979 Dickinson St., Springfield, MA 01108.

Lillian A. Mansfield

Lillian A. (Donnachie) Mansfield, 78, of 11 Liberty Ave., Agawam, a retired clerk for Package Machinery in East Longmeadow, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

Born in West Springfield, she lived in Springfield before moving here 40 years ago. She was a 1936 graduate of the former Springfield Technical High School.

She belonged to the Agawam Congregational Church and was formerly active with its missionary committee. She was a member of the Agawam Golden Age Club.

Her husband, Charles W. Mansfield, died in 1989. She leaves a brother, Edward J. of Southwick; two sisters, Martha A. Sinico of St. Petersburg, Florida, and Dorothy Ferrell of East Longmeadow; and several nephews and nieces.

The funeral was held at the Agawam Funeral Home with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery.

Richard K. Marsian

Richard K. ("Dick") Marsian, 68, of 57 Mercury Court, West Springfield, the western district manager for Air-Pro Co. of California, died at home.

He had also worked for Titeflex Co. of East Springfield.

Born in Springfield, he was a graduate of the former Technical High School and Western New England College.

He lived in Agawam before moving to West Springfield two years ago.

He was an Army veteran of the Korean War.

He played in golf leagues in Southwick and at Springfield's Veterans Golf Course. He was a pitch player and played in leagues in Southwick and East Longmeadow.

He belonged to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1632 in Agawam.

He leaves his daughter, Diane R. Learned of Springfield; his mother, Marian Marsian of Wilbraham; a brother, Donald of Florida; a sister, Barbara DeForest of Arcadia, California; and two grandsons.

His son, Richard K. ("Rick"), died in 1996.

The funeral was held at Forastiere-Smith Funeral Home of East Longmeadow, with the burial at Springfield Street Cemetery in Feeding Hills.

Frank A. Santinello

Frank A. Santinello, 75, of Brien Street, Agawam, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a mechanic at the Riverdale Bowling Lanes, and retired in 1984.

A lifelong resident of Agawam, he was a graduate of Agawam High School and a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church.

He was a World War II Army veteran, and belonged to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post in Agawam.

He leaves two sons, Frank A. Jr. of Agawam and Robert P. of West Springfield; a daughter, Kim M. Santinello of Agawam; a brother, Nicholas of Feeding Hills; three sisters, Carmella Mann of Belchertown, and Yolanda Nahorniak and Frances Pancotti of Springfield; a grandchild; and his former wife, Marilyn Douglas.

The funeral was held at Sampson's Chapel of the Acres Funeral Home in Springfield and the church, with the burial at Gate of Heaven Cemetery in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association, 813 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA 01106.

Philip J. Brusseau

Philip J. Brusseau, 51, of 22 Countryside Drive, Essex Junction, Vermont, died at Fletcher Allen Medical Center of Burlington.

He was a computer programmer for Fonda Paper Co. in St. Albans, and also worked for Titeflex Co. in East Springfield, MA.

Born in Springfield, MA, he was a 1965 graduate of Agawam High School. He attended Springfield Technical Community College and received a business degree from Western New England College in Springfield.

He spent most of his life in Agawam before moving to Essex Junction 10 years ago.

He was a communicant of the Holy Family Church, and was active with the Special Olympic Games.

He leaves his wife, the former Joan Vigneault; three sons, Michael, Richard, and Kevin at home; his parents, Paul and Norma (Magara) Brusseau of Agawam; a sister, Jean E. Bell of East Longmeadow; and a granddaughter.

The funeral was held at Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home and St. Theresa's Church, with the burial in Center Cemetery, all in Agawam.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Theresa's Church, 74 Bridge Street, Agawam, MA 01001.

Genevieve A. Zenisky

West Suffield: Genevieve Ann (Nasiatka) Zenisky died at St. Francis Hospital in Hartford.

She worked for Hathaway & Stein Tobacco Co. for many years, and at the Riverside Amusement Park in Agawam.

Born in Westfield, she was a communicant of the Sacred Heart Church in Suffield.

Her husband, John Zenisky, predeceased her.

She leaves two sons, John F. of Simsbury and Ronald A. of Colorado; a daughter, Cynthia J. Cunningham of Burlington, Vermont; a sister, Nell Simons of Westfield; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at the church, with the burial at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Suffield. Heritage Funeral Home on Mountain Road was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Volunteer Ambulance Fund, P.O. Box 642, Suffield, CT 06078, or the church at 446 Mountain Road, Suffield, CT 06078.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 11...

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OBITUARIES - from Page 10...

James R. Frye

James R. Frye, 68, of 74 Springfield Street, Agawam, a retired 21-year die cutter for Merrill Industries, a corrugated box company in Ellington, Connecticut, died at home.

He retired in 1990.

Born in Creston, Illinois, he moved to Feeding Hills and then to Agawam in 1953.

He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, and a member of the Agawam and West Springfield Veterans of Foreign Wars.

He was also a member of the Agawam Sportsman Club and a former member of the Dante Club in West Springfield.

He leaves a daughter, Donna E. West of Southwick; five brothers, William of California, George of Albertville, Alabama, Donald of Amboy, Illinois, Edward of Monroe Center, Illinois, and Larry of Mendota, Illinois; a sister, Bernice L. Rassmussen of Rochelle, Illinois; his former wife, the former Dorothy Langton; and two grandchildren, Trevor and Tyler West.

He was predeceased by two brothers, Marvin and Ronald "Buckshot" Frye.

A memorial service was held at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church. Burial is at the convenience of the family.

Agawam Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Esther V. O'Neill

Esther V. (Crowley) O'Neill, 93, of West Springfield, a former Chicopee teacher and area Girl Scout leader, died at home.

She was a business education teacher at Chicopee High School from 1926 to 1938, and also taught adult naturalization classes in the 1920's and 1930's.

Born in Waterbury, Connecticut, she was graduated from the former St. Jerome's High School in Holyoke and New York University.

She moved to West Springfield in 1941, and was a communicant of St. Thomas Church. She was active with the church's Women's and Senior Clubs, and had been a Catholic Stewardship Ap-

peals volunteer.

She was a past president of the Pioneer Valley Girl Scout Council Leaders Club, and organized the first troop at St. Thomas Church. She helped to organize a troop at the Mawaga Day Camp in Agawam and was a 17-year staff member.

The Girl Scout Council awarded her the Thanks Badge in March and the Hidden Heroine Award during its 85th anniversary celebration.

She was also a Red Cross instructor for 45 years.

Her husband, William J., died in 1959.

She leaves a son, William C. of West Springfield; two daughters, Ellen A. O'Neill of West Springfield and Marie A. O'Neill of Osterville; a sister, Grace O'Brien of Holyoke; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home of Holyoke, and the church. The burial was in St. Rose Cemetery at South Hadley.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Jan Maloney Endowment Fund, in care of the Pioneer Valley Girl Scout Council, 40 Harkness Avenue, East Longmeadow, MA 01028, or the St. Thomas School development fund at 75 Pine Street, West Springfield, MA 01089.

Richard J. Czepiel

Richard J. Czepiel, 60, of 310 Holtshire Road, Orange, MA, died at home.

He worked for the Athol Housing Authority. He was previously the owner and operator of DC Automotive Repair Co. in West Springfield for 15 years, and worked later for Thermal Structures Co. of East Longmeadow and Lane Refrigeration Contractors of Windsor Locks, CT.

Born in Chicopee, he was a Chicopee Vocational High School graduate, and a Marine Corps veteran of the Korean War.

He raced cars at Riverside Park in Agawam, and on the National Association of Stock-Car Auto Racing circuit in the 1960's.

He was a former member of the Western Massachusetts and Swift River Bird Dog Clubs.

He leaves his wife, Judith (Kellogg) Czepiel; his father, Walter Czepiel of Feeding Hills; a stepson, Gerry M. Blake of West Springfield; two stepdaughters, Susan Mailloux of Erving and Kathleen Blake of Agawam; two brothers, Walter Jr. of South Carolina and Daniel of Feeding Hills; a sister, Cynthia Czepiel of Feeding Hills; and six

step-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at St. Mary's Church, and the burial will be private in South Cemetery. Witty's Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Franklin County Hospice, 164 High Street, Greenfield, MA 01301.

Francis G. Martin

Francis G. Martin, 83, of 138 Mill Street, Agawam, died at Mercy Hospital in Springfield.

He was a machine development engineer for William Carter Co. of Springfield for 45 years.

Born in Springfield, he lived in Agawam for many years and was a communicant of St. John the Evangelist Church.

His wife, Rita (Courtney) Martin, died in 1976.

He leaves two sons, Francis G. Jr. of Portland, CT, and Richard P. of West Brookfield; two daughters, Joanne M. Stafford of East Longmeadow and Barbara M. Cassada of Barkhamsted, CT; 10 grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home and the church, with the burial at St. Michael's Cemetery in Springfield.

Memorial contributions may be made to St. Jude's Children's Hospital, P.O. Box 50, Memphis, Tennessee 38101.

Haley R. Suchenicz

Haley Rose Suchenicz, the infant daughter of Brian and Tracie (Bessette) Suchenicz of Feeding Hills, died at Baystate Medical Center's Wesson Women's Hospital in Springfield.

Besides her parents, she leaves two brothers, Nicholas A. and Michael A.; a sister, Alyssa M.; and her grandparents, Allan and Dorine Bessette of South Daytona, Florida, and Stanley and Joan Suchenicz of Chicopee.

The funeral was held at the Sacred Heart Church, with the burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 12...

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OBITUARIES - from Page 11...

Arthur F. Owen, Jr.

Arthur F. Owen, Jr. of 15-H Castle Hills Road, Agawam, died at the age of 57 on Monday, November 24, 1997 at Olympus Specialty Hospital in Springfield.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, he moved to West Springfield in 1977 and to Agawam in 1991. He was retired from Jarvis East in Palmer, a Standex Company, as Purchasing Manager. He worked for the company for 18 years in various management positions in Maryland, Ohio and Massachusetts. He was a Certified Purchasing Manager and past president and member of the board of directors of the Purchasing Management Association of Western Mass.

He served in the Air National Guard and was honorably discharged in 1963.

He was a 1963 graduate of the University of Baltimore and was a member of Kappa Sigma Kappa Fraternity. He was a licensed real estate broker and property manager of investment properties.

He studied trumpet for four years at the Baltimore Peabody Conservatory of Music and played in the position of first trumpet in his high school orchestra. In the early 1960's, he was a member of the Baltimore Colt Marching Band.

He was active in Sunrise Sertoma (Service to Mankind) of Frederick, Maryland, and with Junior Achievement in West Springfield. He was a member of West Springfield/Agawam Lodge of the Elks. He was active in the Agawam Congregational Church; he was a deacon and served on many church committees.

He leaves his wife of 36 years, P.J. (Philippa J. Vaccarino) Owen; his mother, Anna J. Owen of Baltimore; a daughter, Kathleen A. White of Feeding Hills; a son, Arthur F. Owen, III of Westfield; and five grandchildren.

A memorial service is scheduled for Saturday, November 29th at 4:00 p.m. at the Agawam Congregational Church.

There were no calling hours and burial will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Agawam Congregational Church, 745 Main Street, Agawam, MA 01001 for the purchase of the New Century Hymnals.

Victoria A. Grochmal

Victoria A. (Gniady) Grochmal, 92, formerly of Cottage Street, Springfield, died at an Agawam nursing home.

Born in Chicopee, she lived there for 25 years before moving to Springfield.

She was a communicant of Our Lady of the Rosary Church, and a member of the Polish Women's Alliance, the Golden Agers, and the Hobby Club.

Her husband, Joseph Grochmal, died in 1964. She leaves two sons, Joseph L. of Chicopee and James F.R. of Wilbraham; five sisters, Gladys Gwozdz, Ann Ericson, Stella Lane, and Alice Gilhooly of Springfield, and Jane Pellissier of Chicopee; four grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Kozikowski Funeral Home of Chicopee and the church, with the burial at St. Stanislaus's Cemetery in Chicopee.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Arthritis Foundation, Chatham Center, Suite 450, 29 Crafts Street, Newton, MA 02458.

Julia Sobinski

Suffield: Julia (Korona) Sabinski, 76, died at home.

She worked at Bigelow-Sanford Carpet Co. in Thompsonville, Enfield, and ran "Julie's Place" at the 19th hole on the Oak Ridge Golf Course in Feeding Hills for 25 years until last month.

Born in Thompsonville, she lived there until moving to Suffield in 1950.

She worshipped at St. Joseph's Church. Her husband, Edward Sobinski, predeceased her.

She leaves two daughters, Mary Jane Sobinski-Smith of Suffield and Nancy Sobinski of Portsmouth, New Hampshire; two brothers, Frank and Walter of Enfield; two sisters, Helen Corbo of Suffield and Josephine Korona of Feeding Hills; and three grandchildren.

The funeral was held at Heritage Funeral Home on Mountain Road, West Suffield, and the church. The burial was held in the parish cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Pancreatic Cancer Fund, in care of Dr. Charles Yeo, Johns Hopkins Hospital, 600 North Wolfe Street, Block 606, Baltimore, Maryland 21287.

Mark Chapman

Mark Chapman, 41, of 36 Florida Drive, Agawam, died at the Greenery Extended Care Center in Worcester.

He died of injuries he received following a hit-and-run automobile accident in September 1996.

He was a correctional officer for the Hampden County Sheriff's Department.

He lived in Agawam most of his life and graduated from Cathedral High School. He later attended Holyoke Community College and the Massachusetts Criminal Justice Training Academy. He was a member of the International Brotherhood of Correctional Officers.

He was a charter member of the "Crankers" Antique Car Club, and a former member of the New England Antique Racers and NASCAR.

He was active with the Sheriff's Department Hockey Team and the American Hapkido Association.

He leaves two daughters, Nicole Chapman and Megan Chapman; his parents, Richard and Rita Chapman of Agawam; and a brother, Scott of Cambridge.

The funeral was held at St. John's Church and at Colonial Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Mark Chapman Benefit Fund in care of Edmund Coffey, 47 South Florida Drive, Agawam, MA 01001.

Anna G. Tatamanis

Anna G. (Pechulis) Tatamanis, 94, of Springfield, died in Agawam.

Born in Kalloni, Mytilene, Greece, she came to this country in 1915. She settled in Haverhill, later moving to Springfield in 1921.

She was a private seamstress and worked as an assistant in her husband's tailor business. She retired in 1985. Previously, she worked at US Spring Mattress Company in Springfield.

She was a member of the St. George Greek Orthodox Cathedral and the Greek Orthodox Church

of St. Luke in East Longmeadow. She was a charter member and on the board of the St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society, "Evangelismos," a member of the Committee for the Grecian festivals, and the over-60 club.

She was also a member of the Ladies Philoptochos Society of St. Luke's, the Springfield Golden Age Club Carew St. Branch, the Daughters of Penelope Chapter Ithome 132 of Springfield, and founder, secretary, and member of the board of the Hellenic Seniors of Springfield.

Her husband, Gabriel I. Tatamanis, died in 1974.

She leaves two daughters, Chrisanthie G. Kertiles of Westfield and Artemis T. Romell of South Amherst; eight grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and a great-great grandson.

She was viewed at the cathedral of St. George, followed by services in the Cathedral. Burial was in Oak Grove Cemetery. St. Pierre Springfield Funeral Chapels was in charge of the arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cathedral of St. George, 8 Plainfield Street, Springfield, MA 01104, or to the Greek Orthodox Church of St. Luke, P.O. Box 331, East Longmeadow, MA 01028.

Charles O. Cavanaugh, Sr.

Charles O. Cavanaugh, Sr., of 185 South Street, Agawam, died at home.

He was a farmer and carpenter. Born in Agawam, he was a lifelong resident.

He leaves his wife, Marian F. (Cowles) Cavanaugh; two sons, Charles O. Jr. of Agawam and Lawrence of Feeding Hills; two daughters, Joyce Avery of Somers, CT, and Elizabeth Levinworth of Springfield; 16 grandchildren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

Another daughter, Grace Peets, predeceased him.

The private funeral was held at Agawam Curran-Jones Funeral Home, with a private burial in Center Cemetery.

Doris L. Fitzhenry

Doris L. (Cote) Fitzhenry, 71, of Longwood Avenue, Holyoke, died in Holyoke Hospital.

She was a 40-year waitress at the Storowton Tavern in West Springfield.

Born in Northampton, she was schooled in Holyoke and was a longtime resident of that city.

She was an honorary member of the Agawam Rotary Club.

She leaves a daughter, Kathleen A. Goulet of Northampton; a brother, William of South Hadley; a sister, Mildred O'Brien of South Hadley; four grandchildren; and nephews and nieces.

Her son, Donald, died in 1971.

The funeral was held at Barry J. Farrell Funeral Home and the Blessed Sacrament Church, with the burial in Calvary Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to any charity.

SEE OBITUARIES - Page 13...

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OBITUARIES - from Page 12...

Katherine M. Draghetti

Katherine M. (Stomsky) Draghetti, 88, of 41 Park St., Feeding Hills, a retired clerk at the former Albert Steiger Department Store in Springfield, died in Baystate Medical Center in Springfield.

Born in Westfield, she lived in West Springfield before moving here more than 50 years ago. She was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church.

Her husband, Peter M. Draghetti, died in 1980. She leaves a son, Peter M. of Westmoreland, New Hampshire; two sisters, Eleanor Belcamino of Newington, Connecticut, and Irene Schab of Southwick, and three grandchildren.

The funeral was at Agawam Funeral Home and in the church with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery.

Ebba C. O'Brien

Ebba C. (Salminen) O'Brien, 84, of 113 Parker Street, Agawam, and formerly of Walpole, died in a local nursing home.

She was a 47-year employee of the Kendall Mills in Walpole, and retired in 1977.

Born in Norwood, she was a longtime resident of Walpole before moving to Agawam in 1995.

She leaves five nieces, Eleanor King of Agawam, Constance Stabach, Esther Sarrett, and Barbara Stockwell of Palmer, and Linda Calisewski of Greenfield.

The funeral will be held at the convenience of the family, and the burial will be at Grove Cemetery in Walpole.

Colonial-Forastiere Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM
AGAWAM CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Agawam Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Thursday, December 11, 1997 at 7:00 PM in the Faolin Peirce Community Room, Agawam Police Station, 681 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA. The purpose of this hearing is to hear the petition of Mechanical Plastics for work to be performed on Moylan Lane, subject to the Massachusetts Wetlands Protection Act.

By Order of Henry A. Kozloski, Chairman
Agawam Conservation Commission
Published: December 4, 1997

Homebuying Seminar Being Held For 1st Time Buyers

The offices of **The Pioneer Group** are sponsoring a free public service workshop entitled "Buying a Home...What the Banks Don't Tell You."

It will be held Saturday morning, December 6th between the hours of 10:00 and 11:30 at the West Springfield Professional Center, 1111 Elm Street, Suite 21, in West Springfield.

Topics to be discussed include the various government federal loan programs that are currently available to first-time and move-up homebuyers, understanding points and closing costs, and how to minimize these fees, understanding seller contributions, the difference between a bank and a mortgage company and which one offers the better value, and more.

The information contained in this 90-minute seminar may save today's first-time and move-up buyers thousands of dollars.

Speakers at the workshop include Donald Thompson, a Principal of **THE PIONEER GROUP**, and Raymond Rose, a retired mortgage banker.

The workshop is free of charge and reservations are suggested. Their last seminar was filled to capacity. For more information, please listen to the recorded info message at 846-0981, and for reservations, please dial 731-6800.

OUR DEADLINE is every Tuesday at noon. We open weekdays at 6:30 a.m. To subscribe, call us at 786-7747 or 786-8137. Thanks.

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Ag. Police Dept. Arrest Blotter For Nov. 27th-28th

On November 27, 1997, **Tony J. Tassinari** of 189 Northwest St., Feeding Hills was arrested and charged with disorderly conduct. Arresting officer was Sgt. Richard Light.

On November 27, 1997, **Richard W. Witek** of Meadow Ave., Agawam was arrested and charged with domestic assault & battery. Arresting officer was Richard McDonnell.

On November 28, 1997, **Joe Douglas** of 61 Ridgeview Dr., Feeding Hills was arrested and charged with breaking & entering into a M.V. with intent to commit a misdemeanor and larceny under \$250.00. Arresting officers were John Kunasek and Richard Riccio.

Donations Being Sought For Owners Of Burned Out Business

On Monday, October 6th, the Porth brothers, Uwe and Bodo, were injured in an explosion at their auto repair shop in Agawam (Porth Precision Automotive).

Both the brothers suffered severe burns. Uwe suffered the most severe second degree burns from the shoulder blades to the top of his heels and Bodo received second degree burns to his face, arms, and hands.

Bodo was released from the hospital and is home recovering and doing well. Uwe went home from the hospital but had to return on Monday, November 10th to undergo a third skin graft operation.

In an attempt to help the families, friends, business contacts, and family members are being asked for their support in whatever way they are able.

Anyone wishing to make a donation may send a check to The Porth Family Fund, c/o Agawam Federal Credit Union, 4 Washington Ave. Ext., Agawam, MA 01001.



Agawam Unico & Unico Charities

Sunday, Dec. 14th

PANCAKE BREAKFAST WITH

SANTA

Italian Sporting Club
Cooper St., Agawam
8:00 a.m.-12:00 noon



Donation \$3 (children under 10 free)
Tickets available at the door or
call Bruno Maule @ 789-0082



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Families

UNICO Breakfast Coming



AGAWAM UNICO will hold its Annual Pancake Breakfast on Sunday, December 14th, at the Italian Sporting Club from 8:00 a.m. to noon. Members on the planning committee include (back) Bill Mezzetti and Ron Lalancette; seated - Richie Forni and Dick DiLullo. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Country Estates Award



THE AGAWAM/WEST SIDE Toastmasters Club presented an award to Country Estates Nursing Home for its continued support in providing a meeting site for the club's regular meetings. Jim McDougal, the club's vice-president of education (left), presented the award to William Sibley, executive director of Country Estates, and Nancy Williams, director of marketing.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

December Activities For Agawam's Golden Age Club, Chapter 2

December 8th: Bus trip to Radio City Music Hall Christmas Show.

December 17th: Regular meeting at 1:30 p.m., followed by a Christmas party at the Senior Center.

The membership booklet is being updated. Members are asked to submit their current addresses to Rita Matys or Ed Grimes.

The 1998 membership dues are now payable to Ed Grimes.

JACK DEVINE needs at least 48 hours notice to cover your event. 789-0053.

Senior Games Athletes Planning Bazaar For Sat., December 6th

The Agawam Senior Games Athletes will be having their "Holiday Bazaar" this Saturday, December 6th, at the Agawam Senior Center, Meadowbrook Manor, Agawam.

There will be many crafts, tag sale items, a raffle, and coffee and donuts. The time for the bazaar is 9:00 a.m. and runs until 3:00 p.m.

Come and join us, bring your friends and family. We offer a great variety of items.

best local news...

AHS Choir To Perform At Dec. 15th Meeting Of Ag. Women's Club

The Agawam Women's Club presents the Agawam High School Choir at their December 15th Holiday Meeting at 7:30 p.m., in the Captain Charles Leonard House, 663 Main Street.

A cookie walk and gift exchange for those wishing to participate will also be part of the evening's festivities.

The Club's objective is mutual helpfulness, the advancement of public welfare, and the promotion of civic and cultural interests.

Guests and new members are welcome. For further information, please call 786-1473 or 786-3091.

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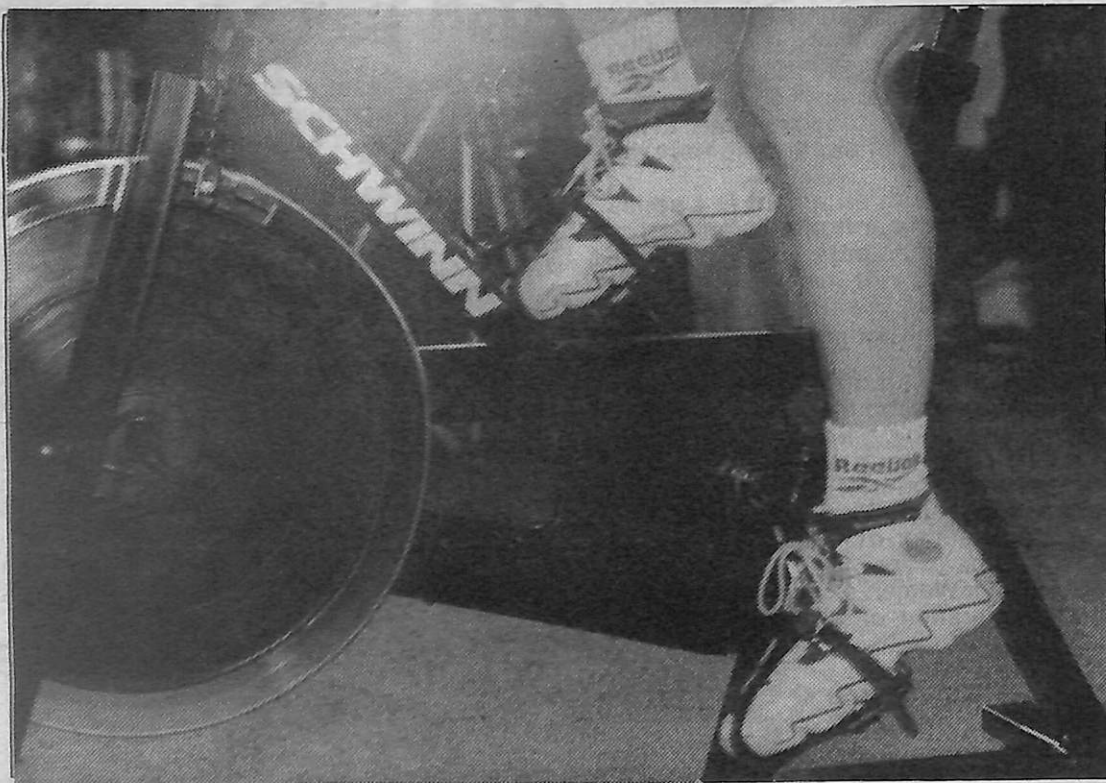
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Navyman Randy Bubar Helps With Testing Of New Battle Technology

The ground shouldn't shake like this, the Marine thought dimly. But then again, fire isn't supposed to devour a whole building at once.

The space where a weapons factory had towered above the earth was now filled by sky and smoke. Seconds earlier, a Navy fighter pilot had delivered his lethal cargo with the precision of a jeweler cleaving a diamond.

Ironically, the Marine thought, as he surveyed the rubble, that the power behind this destruction was not brute force, but intellect.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Randy L. Bubar, the 26-year-old son of Randall and June Bubar of Agawam, and son-in-law of Richard and Judith Limoges of Westfield, recently helped test new battlefield technology that could be used to deliver high-tech weapons with this degree of timing and accuracy.

Bubar is part of the Navy's Third Fleet staff, which operates from the USS Coronado in San Diego. During a recent deployment, Bubar and others put the Coronado's cutting-edge command and control systems to the test.

"We go out to test these systems and exercise the crews' capability to operate them in a wartime situation. It is highly important to iron out the details to ensure our operational readiness," said Bubar, a 1990 graduate of Agawam High School.

Bubar is an intelligence specialist who collects classified information on real or potential enemies.

During the deployment, Coronado's crew exposed the new combat systems to the temperature extremes of the north and south Pacific. The equipment was also put through tests designed to duplicate actual warfare.

In one instance, over a classified Internet line, the Coronado linked digital imagery of a bridge recorded by a Navy SEAL Team to the cockpit of a Navy fighter. This gave the pilot an accurate picture of his target.

"During the deployment, we were able to check the capabilities and readiness of the crew and ship. Numerous drills and exercises increased our readiness," said Bubar, who's married to the Limoges' daughter, Kelly.



NAVY PETTY OFFICER Randy L. Bubar is a crewman of the USS Coronado in San Diego.

As it incorporates more complex equipment into its arsenal daily, and facing a world political picture that can change overnight, the Navy relies on Sailors like Bubar to keep its ships ready to fight.

"We must keep the sea lanes open for free trade and navigation. By deploying our forces overseas, it shows our adversaries that we have the capabilities to forward deploy our military forces," said Bubar, a seven-year Navy veteran.

Bubar and others on the Coronado also visited ports in Hawaii, Japan, South Korea, and Canada during the three-month deployment.

"The deployment gave me the time to see exactly what is important in my life, which is my family. It's true what they say: you appreciate things more when you have to cope without them," Bubar said.

Holiday Ornament By Jr. Women's Club Is Now Available

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is pleased to announce that the 1997 Holiday Ornament is in, and available, at the following stores: The Feeding Hills Public Market, The Agawam Public Market, Surprise! Card & Gift, and the Corner Deli.

This year's ornament features Agawam's own Town Seal. The Town of Agawam was incorporated on May 17, 1855 after separating from the Town of West Springfield.

This is the Club's seventh ornament in a series featuring historical site in our hometown. Most of the previous years' ornaments are sold out. However, we do have a few of the 1992 ornament featuring the Old Agawam Center Library and a few of the 1996 ornament featuring the Agawam Fire House.

These ornaments have started a tradition with many families in Agawam and the Agawam Junior Women's Club is proud to be a part of that! You can purchase one of these ornaments for \$5 at any of the stores listed above. If you're interested in a 1992 or 1996 ornament, please call Pam Quirk at 789-3274 or Betty Vershon at 786-4357. The Club will be glad to get one to you.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Club of Massachusetts.

Agawam Historical Association Issues Commemorative Poster

The Agawam Historical Association has issued a commemorative poster featuring a painting of the Elm Street Station in its effort to raise funds for the renovation of the former fire station into the Agawam Historical & Fire House Museum.

The story of the poster really began some years back, when Historical Association board member (and former Agawam Fire Chief) Russell "Rusty" Jenks recognized a familiar face at a local craft show — a painting of the Elm Street Station by local artist Adrienne Lacey. Jenks knew he had to purchase the painting; after all, it depicts the station where he began with the Agawam Fire Department, as well as the first truck he served on and the first truck he purchased as Chief.

After the station was made available to the Historical Association by the Town, Jenks approached the artist and explained that the Association was attempting to renovate the station into a historical museum. Ms. Lacey generously agreed to let the Association reproduce the painting to use as a fundraiser.

The 18" x 24" poster was designed by local graphic designer David Cecchi and printed by the Pond Ekberg Company of Chicopee, a commercial printer which was founded earlier this century in an Agawam barn. The cost of the poster is \$12, unframed, or two for \$20. Framed posters are available for \$30.

The painting has also been reproduced on notecards and postcards. These items, as well as the poster, commemorative pins, coffee mugs, birdhouses, model kits, and town history books, are on display at the Agawam Public Library throughout the month of December and are available for sale.

Items will be available for purchase at the Agawam Fire Department Headquarters on Main Street from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, and also from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. on December 8th, 10th, 15th, 17th, and 22nd.

For more information, or to purchase any of these items, please contact Carol or Bill Miller at 786-7329, or the Agawam Fire Department Headquarters at 786-0657.

All proceeds will be used toward the renovation of the Elm Street Station, which is estimated to cost \$30,000. To date, some \$15,000 has been raised.

Gina Marie Letellier Participates In "Jail Bail" Event

Councilor Elect Attorney Gina Marie Letellier was recently arrested for "Impersonating A Politician" as part of the March of Dimes Jail and Bail Fundraiser held on November 19th and 20th.

Letellier was "arrested" by Agawam resident Charles Camerlin of the Hampden County Sheriff's Department and transported to jail at Harvey Clay's Greater Springfield Lincoln Mercury. Upon arrival, she was booked and told her bail would be \$300.

After being jailed for approximately two-and-one-half hours, Letellier raised \$520 for the March of Dimes. Among the Agawam businesses and residents that contributed to her bail were *The Agawam Advertiser-News*, Ayre Real Estate, Ayre Investments, Balzer Tool Coating, Message on Hold Network, Westfield Bank, and Western Mass. Constables. Thanks to all who contributed.

Please remember our deadline is every Tuesday at noon.

New Year's Eve Gala At Ferruccio's Now Being Planned

The public is invited to attend a New Year's Eve Gala, December 31, 1997 at Ferruccio's, 1520 Main St., Agawam.

Start your evening with cocktail hour with hors d'oeuvres at 7:00 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Tickets are \$40 per person/cash bar.

Dinner will include antipasto, ziti, and broccoli served at table and prime rib, chicken champagne, veal tenders, red potato, green beans, carrots, and rolls served buffet style.

A dessert buffet with cakes, cookies, cheesecakes, fruits, etc. served later in the evening.

This extravaganza is sponsored by the Concerned Citizens and Business of Agawam. Please join us in celebrating all our victories and start the New Year helping us with our latest victory. A portion of the ticket sale will go to the legal funds.

For more information and tickets, please contact Judy Stieg at 786-6964 or tickets can be purchased at Maria's Restaurant, 605 Silver Street, Agawam.

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Agawam Garden Club & Floral Concepts Helping With Storowton's Christmas

The Agawam Garden Club will deck the Gilbert House parlor and Floral Concepts by Tom will deck the Schoolhouse in seasonal splendor for "Yuletide at Storowton" at Eastern States Exposition's Storowton Village Museum.

The annual winter holiday festival is free to the public and will take place December 6th and 7th from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Using natural greens and dried fruits and other materials, members of the Garden Club will generously give their time, expertise and materials to turn the Gilbert House parlor into a holiday wonderland of days past.

Floral Concepts by Tom will use a peppermint/candy cane theme, incorporating different sweets appropriate to the era, with berries and fresh winter greens such as hemlock, laurel, and pine, generously donating time, expertise, and materials for the project.

"Teddy Bears on Parade" will kick off the Yuletide event Saturday, December 6th at 11:30 a.m. Adults and children may bring their favorite bear dressed for the holidays to join in a parade around the Village Green and compete for prizes. Rain date for the parade is Sunday, December 7th at 11:30 a.m.

The Village will be bustling with a variety of activities that will fill visitors with holiday cheer throughout the two-day occasion including tours

of the beautifully decorated historic buildings, storytelling, musical performances, lectures, 19th century craft demonstrations, ice sculpting, barnyard animals to pet and a pony carousel. Caroling and a tree lighting ceremony will round out the festivities at 4:00 p.m. on the Gazebo and children will have a chance to visit with Santa throughout each day.

Gifts and holiday decorations will also be for sale throughout the Village. Delectable treats are on hand in the Holiday Sweet Shoppe in Potter Mansion and holiday gift items are available at the Storowton Village Gift Shop in the Phillips House. The Storowton Village Gift Shop will also be open Monday through Wednesday, 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Thursday and Friday, 9:00 a.m.-6:00; and Saturday, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., through December 24th.

The entire family will delight in the beauty of an old-fashioned holiday at "Yuletide at Storowton," Storowton Village Museum's gift to the community. Also taking place on the Exposition grounds December 6th and 7th will be the New England Yuletide Craft Spectacular from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. on Sunday in the Better Living Center.

For more information on Yuletide events, call the Village at (413) 787-0136 or Eastern States Exposition at (413) 737-2443.



ROBERT & ELAINE WATSON

Watsons Celebrate 50th Anniversary At Hadleigh House

Robert & Elaine Watson of Agawam were recently honored at a dinner given by their children at the Hadleigh House on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary.

The couple were married in Hamden, Connecticut on October 18, 1947. They are the parents of three children: Nancy Dorenfeld of Westford, Patricia of Albuquerque, New Mexico, and Robert of Bedford. They also have four grandchildren.

Mr. Watson retired from Blue Cross-Blue Shield as an account executive. Mrs. Watson was employed at American Cynamid Co. Mrs. Watson is the former Elaine Fontaine.

best local news...

Agawam Unico Schedules "Pancake Breakfast With Santa"

The Agawam Chapter of Unico has announced that its upcoming "Pancake Breakfast with Santa" will be taking place on Sunday, December 14th, at the Italian Sporting Club on Cooper Street, Agawam, from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

Tickets are \$3 for adults, and children under 10 years of age are free. Tickets are currently available from any Unico member or Bruno Maule, and they will also be available at the door.

Proceeds from the breakfast will be used for Agawam Unico charities.

Italian Buffet Being Sponsored By CCBA On December 14th

Make your holiday a little less stressful after shopping all day, decorating the tree, giftwrapping, etc. by attending an Italian Buffet at Maria's Pizza and Restaurant, 605 Silver Street, Agawam on Sunday, December 14th from 4:30-7:30 p.m.

Tickets are on sale now (\$6/adults and \$4/children [12 and under] and senior citizens) at Maria's Restaurant or call Judy Stieg at 786-6964. You may also purchase tickets at the door.

All proceeds will go to the CCBA's legal fund.

Christmas Tree Sale

Agawam Call Fire Department

Annual Fundraiser

102 Suffield Street, Agawam
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Over 300 Trees To Choose From





BABY MICHAEL J. POTTER, JR.

Potters Announce Birth Of Son, Michael J. Potter, Jr.

Michael and Kelli Potter proudly announce the birth of their son, Michael John Potter, Jr., on Tuesday, September 16, 1997 at 3:10 a.m. He weighed in at eight pounds, four ounces and measured 21 inches long.

Michael is the grandson of Tom and Judy Potter of 60 Anvil Street, Feeding Hills, and Mickey and Kitty Pepper of 86 Fox Farm Road, Feeding Hills. His great-grandparents are Catherine Krick of Meriden, Connecticut, Emelia Giancola of Springfield, and Felix Pepper of East Longmeadow.

Michael was christened at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, Springfield, by Rev. Richard Scioli on Sunday, November 16, 1997 which was followed by a family party.

Local Toastmasters Asked To Serve As National Judges

The Agawam/West Side Toastmasters was honored to be selected to serve as the official judges for the National Public Speaking Contest for the National Grange, held recently at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Springfield.

The contest is part of the club's education program of improving members' communication and leadership skills.

"We are honored to be asked to partake in this educational event," said Toastmaster Club President Mike Margiotta, who presided as one of the judges for the event, along with past president, Joanne Attardi and Vice President of Education, Jim McDougal.

The Agawam/West Side Toastmasters Clubs is a member of Toastmasters International, a worldwide organization which seeks to help members improve their communication skills.

New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Vice President of Membership, Jack Russell, at (413) 567-8505.

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BankBoston Has Estate Planning At Agawam Library

The Agawam Public Library and BankBoston are pleased to sponsor a program on "Long Term Care and Estate Planning," on Tuesday, December 9th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the library.

A representative from BancBoston Insurance Agency and Attorney Richard Corbet will explain wills and trusts, long-term care insurance, ways to avoid probate, strategies to minimize taxation of your estate, and ways to protect your assets from Medicaid.

Please note that insurance products are not FDIC insured; are not deposits or obligations of, or guaranteed by BankBoston, N.A. or its affiliates; and are subject to investment risk, including the possible loss of principal amount invested.

BancBoston Insurance Agency, Inc. is an affiliate of BankBoston, NA. The program is free, and the public may register in person at the library, or by calling the library at 789-1550.

Pvt. Ryan M. Weidler Enters Basic Training At Fort Benning

Army Pvt. Ryan M. Weidler has entered basic infantry training at Fort Benning, Columbus, Georgia.

During the training, he will receive instruction in drill and ceremonies, map reading, tactics, military customs courtesies, and first aid. He will develop basic combat skills, and experience using various weapons available to the infantry soldier.

Weidler is the son of Michal Allan of 4 Pheasant Valley Road, Feeding Hills, and Elizabeth Weidler of 1455 Holly Heights Blvd., Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

The private is a 1995 graduate of West Springfield High School.

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ADVERTISER NEWS
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BABY CAROLINE A. WYSOCKI

Wysocki Family Has Second Child, Caroline A. Wysocki

Bill & Colleen Wysocki of Janelle Drive, Agawam announce the birth of their daughter, Caroline Anna on October 12th.

Caroline weighed seven pounds, eight ounces and was 20½ inches long. She is welcomed home by her big brother, 15 month-old Billy.

Grandparents are Frank & Concetta Wysocki of Agawam and Jack & Patricia Hoar of Springfield. Great-grandparents are Bud & Peg Thompson of West Springfield.

Agawam Democrats Slate Christmas Party At E.B.'s On Dec. 8th

The Agawam Democratic Committee is pleased to announce that it will be holding its annual Holiday Party at E.B.'s Restaurant on Walnut Street Extension in Agawam on December 8, 1997.

The festivities will begin at 6:30 p.m. and dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. The menu includes E.B.'s award-winning wings, salad, ziti, and meatballs.

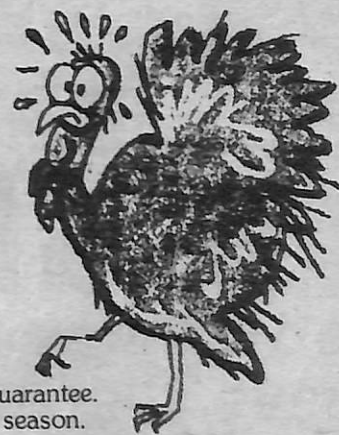
Tickets are \$8 per person. Guests are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the Open Pantry and a Secret Santa gift with a value of \$5 or less. Everyone is welcome, regardless of party affiliation.

Please R.S.V.P. to Louis Russo, Secretary, at 786-9107 or Mary Manning, Treasurer, at 786-7528 by noon on December 5th.

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Rudy Altobelli Named New President Of Retired Employees

At a recent meeting of A.R.E. (Agawam Retired Employees), the new officers and Board of Directors were introduced to the members.

They are as follows: Rudy Altobelli (president), Kay Muzzy (vice president), Anita Hastings (secretary), and Chick Kistner (treasurer).

The Board of Directors are Louise Ball, Betty Barry, Elaine Bellico, Rose Bessette, Ed Bobeck, Stan Chmielewski, John Chriscola, Adele Gallano, Ken Grady, Marty Jerry, Marilyn Johnson, Ben McClelland, Fran O'Brien, Bill Parent, and Rita Rose.

All officers and directors will serve for a two-year term beginning October 1997. Any town retiree with concerns, problems, or suggestions related to Blue Cross premiums, COLAs, or any other retirement benefit should contact one of the above listed and A.R.E. will try to be of assistance.

A.R.E. was formed to allow retirees of the town to have a common voice in our retirement.

Annual Holly Days To Be Held Dec. 6th At West Side Legion

The Annual Holly Days Bazaar sponsored by West Springfield Unit No. 207 of the American Legion Auxiliary will be held in the American Legion Home on Park Avenue on December 6th from 10:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Linda Marcil, Unit President, is being assisted by Kathy Granger (raffle chairman), Theresa Putman and Mary Wellman (Christmas decorations), Irene Dion (10-4 table), Marie Colbert and Grace Colbert (the Bake Shop), Linda Marcil, Irene Conway, and Rose Raineault (Christmas gifts), and Mary Ventulett (Santa's Kitchen).

Many tables have been obtained by local craftsmen and these will feature wood gift products, knitted items, special holiday decorations, and more.

Drawings for the special bazaar raffles will be held at 5:00 p.m. at the close of the one-day affair.

Theresa Barlow Plans Dec. 6th Craft Sale

Theresa Barlow of the Blue Shutters will once again hold her annual Craft Sale on Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at 969 Shoemaker Lane, Feeding Hills.

For sale will be homemade jams, jellies, and condiments, most of which are home grown. Also featured will be hand-crafted items as well as "Dolls by Nancy."

Fresh baked bread and muffins will also be for sale.

There will be a table of sale items. Save up to 20 percent for these selected items. Come sample and browse. Bring a friend.

best local news...

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Christmas Party At Turnverein Dec. 13th

The Springfield Turnverein, 176 Garden Street, Feeding Hills will be holding their Annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 13th.

Dinner will be served from 6:30-7:30 p.m. consisting of baked stuffed chicken breast with all the fixings. All this for only \$10 per person (if paid by the Dec. 10th deadline or \$12 at the door).

No reservations will be taken after December 10th. You may make reservations by calling Wilma Gillan at 786-4671 or the Club at 786-0924.

Following dinner, "The Dan Kane Band" will play for your listening and dancing pleasure. The Ladies' Glee Club and the Men's Singing Section will present a few traditional German carols and then a sing-along will be held with the traditional carols in English.

Plan now to attend with your friends. Guests are most welcome. Reservations may be made individually or for a table of eight or 10.

Ag. Senior Center's Weekly Lunch Menu

Week Of December 8th-12th

Monday: Meatloaf, gravy, baked potatoes, green beans, whole wheat bread, fresh orange.

Tuesday: Hot turkey sandwich w/stuffing, peas & onions, cranberry sauce, canned peaches.

Wednesday: French meat pie, mashed potatoes, salad, rye bread, brownie.

Thursday: Baked chicken breast, mashed potatoes, cabbage, pumpernickel bread, applesauce.

Friday: Baked fish, rice pilaf, carrots, whole wheat bread, chocolate pudding.

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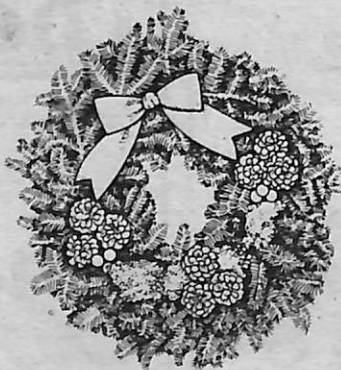
8" Pots - **\$6.95**

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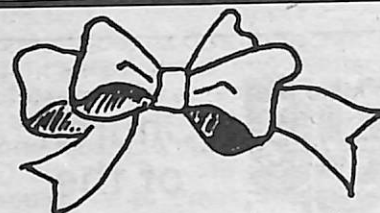
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Church News

Roast Beef Supper At Methodist Church



THE AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH held a roast beef supper on Saturday, November 15th in the church hall. From left - Kevin Telford was one of the kitchen servers; in middle photo, Margaret Ross and Barbara Kerr were delighted with their meals; in photo right, Karl Bernier and Carmela D'Angelis were both hard at work in the kitchen. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

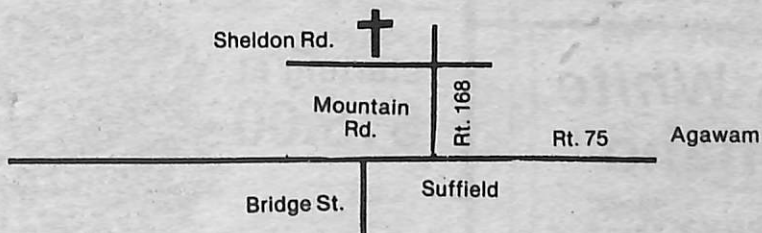
For glossy copies of photos in this edition, please call Jack Devine at 789-0053. Jack has all of the negatives. Thanks.



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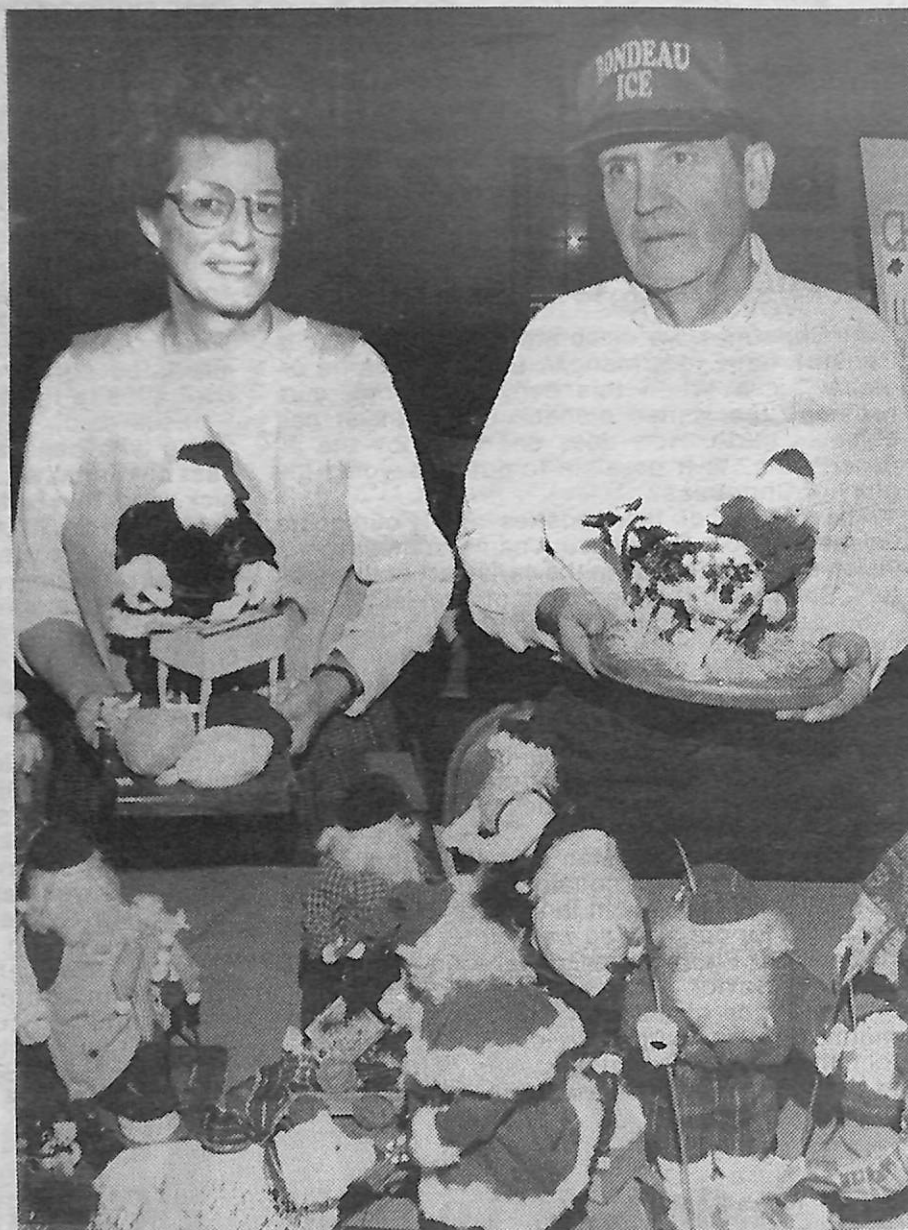
Norman Townsend

Church News - continued...

Holiday Bazaar At Ag. Congregational



PARTICIPATING IN THE Agawam Congregational Church Holiday Bazaar on November 22nd included, from left - Margaret Quigley, Dot Brown, and Doris Preston. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



SANTA CLAUS was a popular craft item at the November 22nd Holiday Bazaar at the Agawam Congregational Church. Pictured are Ellen & Jim Peles. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



MARION EKSTEDT and JOAN HAUSER are all smiles at the November 22nd Holiday Bazaar held at the Agawam Congregational Church. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Friendship Sunday On December 7th At Harvest Assembly

You are invited to a special holiday Friendship Sunday this Sunday, December 7th, 10:30 a.m. at the Harvest Assembly of God Church, 121 Union Street, West Springfield.

Pastor Charles Schivley will be sharing a special message entitled "What Jesus Wants for Christmas."

All attendees are welcome to join for a holiday turkey dinner with the trimmings following the message in the fellowship hall.

Other special events will also be held during the month of December. Sunday, December 14th is our annual Community Christmas Caroling in West Springfield. On Sunday, December 21st at 6:00 p.m., the church will present a special program entitled, "A Christmas Celebration." This is a special candlelight service of music and drama for the whole family, focusing on the true meaning of Christmas. There will be refreshments following the program.

The church is located near the I.H.O.P. restaurant. For directions or more information, you may call the church at 739-1234.

St. Anthony's Canned Good Sunday Is A Great Success

St. Anthony's CCD classes, along with some assistance from the Holy Rosary Society, held "Canned Good Sunday" on November 23, 1997 during all masses.

"Canned Good Sunday" is a program designed to generate canned good and winter clothing donations from the parish for distribution to the homeless and less fortunate people. The CCD classes worked hard to make the day a success.

The CCD classes, as well as the Holy Rosary Society, would like to thank those parishioners who have made contributions to "Canned Good Sunday" and also like to let you know that they will be accepting donations throughout the winter season.

Happy holidays!

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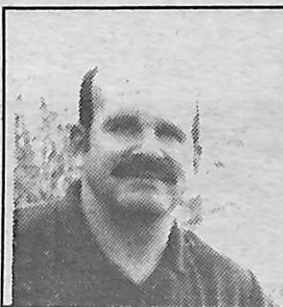
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Church News - continued...

Reflections...

submitted by
Rev. Peter Monahan
Pastor of the Church
of the Apostles,
Suffield, CT
(860) 668-4444 or
(413) 796-8735



The Glory Of Christmas

At Christmas we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, a baby in a manger. But this was no ordinary baby. When this baby was born, ours became "the visited planet." God himself had come to earth. How does one describe the indescribable? Is it possible to put into words the glory of Christmas?

The Church of the Apostles is a Foursquare Gospel Church. Our unusual name comes from a vision our founder had in the early part of this century. She called it "The Vision of Ezekiel."

Sister Aimee Semple McPherson described her vision this way: "In the clouds of heaven, which folded and unfolded in fiery glory, Ezekiel had beheld that Being, whose glory no mortal can describe. As he gazed upon that marvelous revelation of the Omnipotent one he perceived four faces. The faces - those of a man, a lion, an ox, and an eagle. Those four faces we likened to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

"In the faces of the Man we beheld that of the Man of Sorrows and acquainted with grief, dying on the tree." The baby in the manger was born to die, to die for our sins, so we wouldn't have to die instead. Our Foursquare Gospel proclaims Jesus Christ the Savior.

"In the face of the Lion we beheld that of the mighty Baptizer with the Holy Ghost and fire." John the Baptist had said of Jesus, "I have baptized you with water, but He will baptize you with the

Holy Spirit." Jesus commanded His followers, "And see, I am sending upon you what My Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

Jesus baptized His followers with the Holy Spirit on the Day of Pentecost. The power of God, released through Jesus during the days of His ministry, is now available through the Body of Christ, the Church. Our Foursquare Gospel proclaims Jesus Christ as the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit.

"The face of the Ox typified the Great Burdenbearer, who Himself took our infirmities and carried our sicknesses, who in His boundless love and divine provision had met our every need." The gospels attest to the fact that Jesus alleviated suffering in His day. Jesus' ministry continues to the present through His Church.

Jesus said, "And these signs will accompany those who believe: By using My name they will cast out demons ... they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." The Bible instructs those who are ill or who have other needs to seek relief from God through prayer. Our Foursquare Gospel proclaims Jesus Christ as the Healer.

"In the face of the eagle we saw reflected soul enrapturing visions of the Coming King, whose pinnacles soon would cleave the shining heavens, whose silvery voice would set the Milky Way to echoing as He came to catch His waiting bride away."

Everyone should keep in mind that Christmas was only "Act One." Jesus Christ will come again. His second coming will not be an obscure birth in an obscure manger.

Next time, everyone will know, right away. It might very well happen within our lifetimes. Our Foursquare Gospel proclaims Jesus Christ, the soon coming King.

Earlier this century the term "foursquare" meant something "solid," "dependable," "something you could count on or trust." Jesus Christ the Savior, the Baptizer with the Holy Spirit, the Healer and the soon coming King, is surely that, and more. He is the glory of Christmas.

Holiday Activities
Being Planned At
St. John's Church

St. John's Bazaar

Donations of any nonperishable food items will now be accepted for the Bountiful Basket at St. John's Church, Main Street, Agawam.

Please bring them to the Parish Center, marked "Bountiful Basket." The committee is still accepting Attic Treasures, jewelry old and new.

They can use any empty jewelry boxes for display. Please plan on saving them this year for next year's bazaar.

St. John's Over-60 Club

On December 4th, the bus will leave St. John's at 3:00 p.m. for early dinner at Student Prince, followed by bus tour of the Bright Nights at Forest Park.

Cost is \$21.50. Call Lil Doyle for reservations at 786-9586.

ADVENT

We begin the Advent season this weekend. Our Community Life Commission will put the names of families and individuals (in code) on a tree in the Sanctuary.

The commission will see that the gifts arrive on time for Christmas. You might want to arrive early this weekend to get a name off the tree before Mass.

Christmas Bazaar

The St. John's Parish Christmas Bazaar is this Saturday, December 6th. Doors open at 9:00 a.m. Raffle tickets must be in by 1:30 p.m. on the 6th.

Agawam Catholic Singles Club

Dec. 10th: Monthly Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Liaison, Frank (789-2764)

Dec. 13th: Play: Ransom of Red Chief - closed.

Dec. 14th: Afternoon concert, 3:00 p.m. Potluck Christmas party/gift exchange, 6:00 p.m. For info, call Joanne at 789-2945

St. Anthony's To Hold
Christmas Party At
Storrowton Village

St. Anthony of Padua's Holy Rosary Society has planned a spectacular Christmas celebration this year. This year's party is set for December 9, 1997 and begins at 5:00 p.m. with a stroll through picturesque Storrowton Village, West Springfield, which has been adorned for the Yuletide season in the 19th century style by area garden clubs and florists.

Following the Christmas stroll, a Christmas dinner with all the fixings and trimmings will be served at Old Storrowton Tavern with your choice of entree of Yankee pot roast, stuffed chicken, or baked Boston scrod.

Reservations for this Christmas celebration must be made by calling 786-6472, and payments are to be made to Ms. Ernestine Book. Happy holidays!

Catholic Women
To Meet Dec. 8th
At St. John's

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will meet on Monday, December 8th in the Parish Center of St. John the Evangelist Church, Monday, December 8th at 7:30 p.m.

Chairwoman Gloria Colby will introduce the Melody Boys, an over-65 barbershop singing group from Springfield. Any member interested in receiving a gift should bring an exchange gift with a value of \$5.

Hospitality chairwoman Elaine Taupier will be

assisted by Barbara Charest, Ann Sorel, Peg Saliba, Miriam Taupier, Pat Sherry, and Lil Doyle.

French Toast Breakfast
At Ag. Congregational
On Sunday, Dec. 7th

The Agawam Congregational Church will be holding a French toast and sausage breakfast on Sunday, December 7th, from 8:00-10:00 a.m. The cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children.

The breakfast will be held at the church located at 745 Main Street. Reservations are recommended; a few walk-ins will be accepted.

Reservations can be made by calling the church office at 786-7111 or Jerry Hamel at 786-2908 before noon on Friday, December 5th.

Richard W. Gallerani, OD
Julianne Rapalus Gallerani, OD

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Choice Of:

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With Egg And Cheese (Served With Coffee)

\$2.25

Wednesday Is Pasta Night!
All-You-Can-Eat!

With Choice Of Meatballs Or Hot Or Sweet Sausage
(With Salad And Bread)

\$4.95 Per Person

Lunch And Dinner Specials Served Daily
Open Tuesday Through Saturday, 7:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Breakfast Only On Sunday, 7:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

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Church News - continued...**Weekly Calendar For Upcoming Events At Ag. Congregational**

This Friday, December 5th, the Confirmation Class will be visiting the Sinai Temple-Reform in Springfield as part of their Faith in Action Series. The students will meet at 6:30 p.m. at the church for the 7:00 p.m. service.

The Catering Committee is having a **French Toast Breakfast** this Sunday, December 7th, from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m. Menu includes French toast, sausage, juice, coffee, and tea.

Cost is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children under 12. Call the Church Office, 786-7111, to make your reservations by Friday, December 5th.

This Sunday, December 7th, is the Second Sunday in Advent and also Communion Sunday at Agawam Congregational Church. The Candle of Love will be lit by the LeFebvre family (Judy, Neal, Amanda, and Brittany) before the Call to Worship.

Rev. Fuller's sermon will be "Prepare Ye the Way," taken from text: Malachi 3:1-4. The Children's Message will be "Clean Up."

The children meet for choir rehearsal directly following the Worship Service from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. each week. The members of the Children's Choir add their voices to two Worship Services each month under the direction of Ellen Cogen, Minister of Music.

The children in Church School are now learning about the Advent Season. This week's theme is "Prepare the Path."

The highly-praised program "Whole People of God" is used for every age group: for grades seven through 12 (9:00 to 10:00 a.m.), and for three year-olds through grade six (10:30 to 11:30 a.m.).

Church School is open to all children. Your child may join at any time during the year.

The Open Pantry item for this Sunday is a canned meal (stew, hash, Spam, etc.).

Items collected each week are donated to the Agawam/West Springfield Open Pantry.

Advent Series: The series continues with our Baptist friends across the street. Experience the sights, sounds, stories, and tastes from around the globe as we concentrate on: affirming others, accepting ourselves, and appreciating the global Body of Christ.

Guest speakers from four different lands and cultures will join us on: December 7th, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the First Baptist Church of Agawam, and December 14th and 21st, 7:00 to 8:30 p.m., at the Agawam Congregational Church.

For more information concerning the series, call the church office, 786-7111.

Christmas Eve Services will be at 5:00 p.m., the Family Christmas Pageant; 7:00 p.m., Carols & Candles; and 11:00 p.m., the Traditional Candlelight Service. Join us for one, two, or all three to bring the Christ Child into your heart.

If you are interested in being part of the Family Christmas Pageant, call the church office, 786-7111, or come to the two rehearsals, Saturday, December 13th, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m., and to the dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 20th, from 9:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Christmas Concert At Sacred Heart Church On December 14th

Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills will present its Annual Christmas Concert on Sunday evening, December 14th at 7:00 p.m. in the church. The Senior Choir will sing the cantata, *It Took a Miracle*.

The Junior Choir will also be featured singing selections from the Christmas series, *Silent, Holy Night*.

Admission is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served in the Parish Center immediately following the concert. Attendees are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the needy of the community.

For more information, contact Jeanette Denoncourt at 786-6290 or the church rectory at 786-8200.

NO ONE covers all the hometown news like us, each week

"Advent Giving Tree" Taking Place On Dec. 6th-7th At Sacred Heart

The Annual Advent "Giving Tree" at Sacred Heart Church in Feeding Hills will take place December 6th and 7th.

Through this event, we have the opportunity to share our blessings with those in the parish family who are less fortunate. We ask that **new, unwrapped gifts of clothing for all ages (infants to seniors), toys, dolls, stuffed animals, etc.**, be left at the tree at all the Masses.

Especially needed are **clothing and toys for older children (10-16)**.

Also appreciated are **cash donations** with which we can purchase specific requests (**boots, coats, warm clothing**) for our homebound, etc. Donations should be in an envelope marked "Giving Tree" and put in the basket or given to Sr. Eileen.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT

A joyful evening of music will be presented by

the Sacred Heart Choirs on **Sunday, December 14th** at 7:00 p.m. in the Church.

Admission is free, however, we are asking that you bring a non-perishable food item to help the needy of our community.

Refreshments will be served in the Parish Center immediately following the concert. **ALL ARE WELCOME.**

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

There will be a Children's Liturgy on the **Third Sunday of Advent, December 14th** at the 9:00 a.m. Mass. We are looking for students to be readers, gift bearers, and greeters.

If you are interested in participating more fully in this liturgy, please let **Alma Benton** know at CCD or **Beth O'Neill (786-0158)**.

A rehearsal will be held on **Saturday, December 13th**. We will notify you of the time at a later date.

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December 13, 1997**

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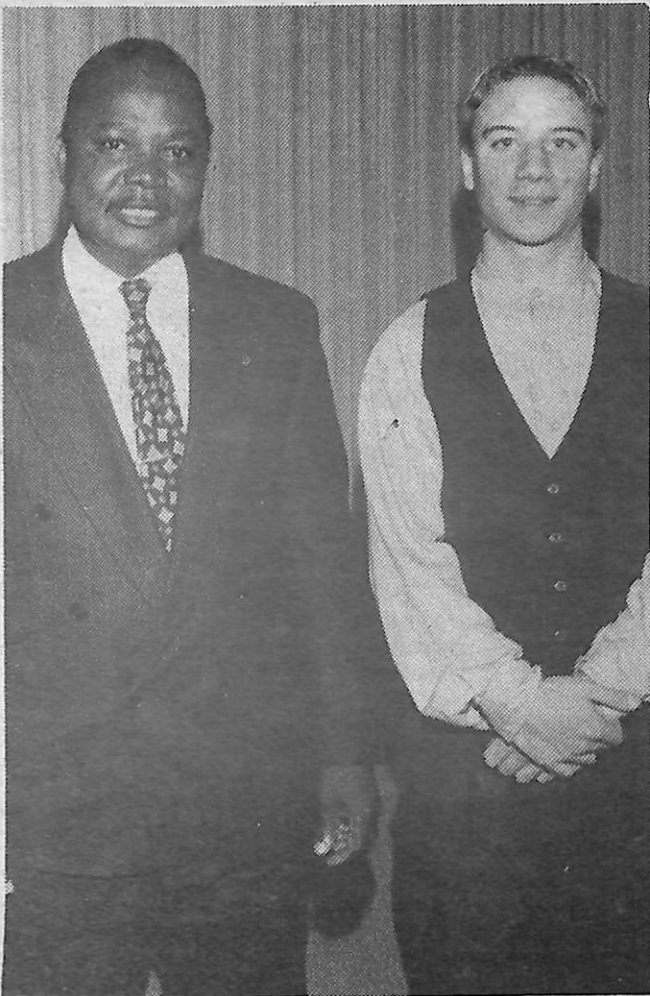
Winter Wear

Have old equipment?

Bring it in! We will be accepting items for sale on consignment on the 12th from 6:30 to 8:00 P.M. at FHCC.

Church News - continued...

Concert By Tilden



THE REV. TOBY GBEH, Baptist minister from Liberia, currently pastor of the New Milford Chapel, and BRAD TILDEN, pianist, are pictured at the Benefit Piano Concert given for Rev. Toby and his family on Sunday, November 16th, at the Agawam Congregational Church. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Nocturnal Adoration At St. Theresa's On Fri., Dec. 5th

The Nocturnal Adoration Society of Agawam and West Springfield will meet at Saint Theresa's Church in Agawam to conduct and pray the Office of the Blessed Sacrament, Friday, December 5th from 7:00-11:00 p.m.

All are invited to come and spend an hour in Eucharistic Adoration.

During Advent Season Valley Community Opens Its Arms

Throughout this Advent Season, members of Valley Community Church extend a warm welcome to anyone who would like to prepare their hearts for the arrival of Christmas.

This second Sunday in Advent, parishioners will focus on this period of penitence and mourning in preparation for the coming of the King. Worship begins at 9:30 a.m. During this service, new members will also be joining the church as part of the ever-growing family of Valley Community Church.

The Worship Service for Children begins at 10:00 a.m. in Dunn Hall. During this service, the children will hear of the importance of Advent and how it affects their lives today.

Young and old will gather for Coffee and Fellowship at 10:30 a.m. This is a time for us to get together as we enjoy each other's company. During this time, we will also celebrate the birthdays for the month of December as well as personally welcome our new church members.

Church school begins at 11:00 a.m. Classes are available for all ages and nursery care is available.

A REMINDER that Junior Choir will be rehearsing on Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m.

The Board of Administration will meet on Monday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m. This will be their final meeting of this year and a chance to wrap up any loose ends before the new board begins in January. All board members are urged to attend.

The Senior Choir will meet on Wednesday, December 10th at 7:00 p.m. These rehearsals have certainly proven effective as their music during Worship on Sundays is deeply moving and certainly inspiring.

The final Chicken Supper for 1997 will take place on Saturday, December 13th. Reservations can be made by calling Dot at 786-6031 or Shirley at 786-2576. But not to worry, these terrific suppers will continue in 1998.

Valley Community Church is an interdenominational church and a member of the International Council of Community Churches. The church is located "high on the hilltop" at 152 South Westfield Street.

Check our classified ads each and every week — ADVERTISER NEWS!!!

Russian Choir At First Baptist Church On Friday, Dec. 5th

The Russian Evangelical Baptist Church Choir will present a free concert, "Music For All Seasons," at the Baptist Church on Main Street in Agawam on Friday, December 5th at 7:30 p.m.

The 47-member Choir will present a program of varied music as part of the "First Friday" Series sponsored by the Agawam Cultural Council through funding provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council.

Additional parking is available at Keenan Motta Realtors and across Main Street behind the Congregational Church and at Ryan Drug and Agawam Medical Supply.

The Choir and their Russian congregation have been holding their services at the Agawam Baptist Church since 1991. It was first started on Christmas of 1989 at the Bible Baptist Church in West Springfield after the first families arrived during the summer of that year. The Choir had 15 members at that time.

Services were held in Russian and the first choir director was Valentin Jupikov, followed by Vitaliy Korchevski and Sergey Chelnokov.

In 1991, Sergey Sychev's family arrived and he started working with the choir which by that time had grown to 30 members. The repertoire was consistently growing along with the church membership.

At the present time, there are 47 members and two conductors: Sergey Sychev, Director of Music, and Vitaly Pchelk.

Several guest performances at the host Baptist Church in Agawam have been especially well received and the Council is most happy to be able to share the abilities of this very talented group.

Included in the program will be "Glory To The God Above" by Bartanski, "Gloria" by Gaiden, and "Creator Of The Universe" by Mozart.

Christmas Bazaar At St. John's Church

The Catholic Women's Club and St. John's Guild will host their Annual Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 6th at the St. John's the Evangelist Parish Center, 833 Main Street, Agawam.

Doors open at 9:00 a.m. There will be something of interest for everyone, regardless of age. Santa will be there, so parents bring your children and cameras.

Refreshments will be served on the premises. Come one, come all. You are bound to find something to fill our your Christmas list.

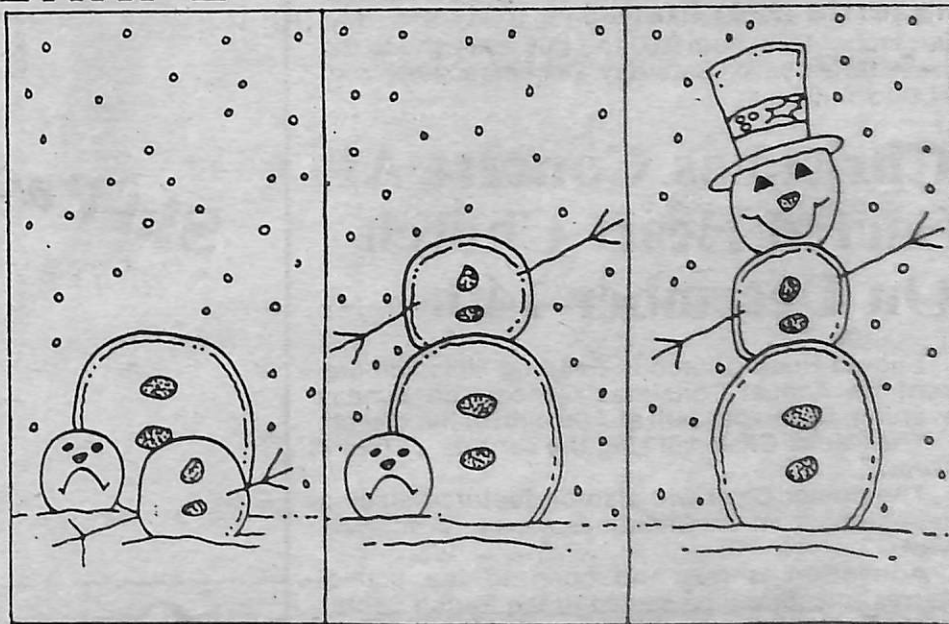
Make a visit with our family a part of your family's Christmas Eve tradition.



Join us for worship
7:00 p.m. Family Service
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Church News - continued...

Jingle Valley Fair At Agawam Baptist Church



SUPERVISING THE BAKED GOODS TABLE at the Annual Jingle Valley Fair at the Agawam First Baptist Church on Saturday, November 22nd, were, from left - Ruth Roberts, Arline Smith, Phyllis Damon, and Lorraine Royer. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



PARTICIPATING IN THE ANNUAL Jingle Valley Fair at the Agawam First Baptist Church on Saturday, December 22nd were Lorie Baker, Sharon Hodge, Linda Chicklas, and Sharon Grabowski. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Upcoming Events At Feeding Hills Congregational Through Dec. 13th

You are welcome to join with us at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church which is located at 21 N. Westfield Street in Feeding Hills.

Worship hour begins at 10:00 a.m. The lectionary readings for December 7th, the second Sunday of Advent, are Malachi 3:1-4, Luke 1:68-79; Philippians 1:3-11; Luke 3:1-6.

Rev. Donaldson's sermon title is "Forgiveness." Communion will be served by Bernice Burton and Sue Boisvert. Children should attend worship with their parents, leaving at the designated time for Sunday School; nursery care will be provided for the very young.

Operation Friendship, an international youth group sponsored by this church, will serve a Roast Beef Dinner on Saturday, December 6th, beginning at 5:00 p.m. This is how the young people raise money to promote international friendship. Come on in and warm your tummy with good food and help warm the world with good friends!

Operation Friendship will have a ski sale at this church on Sunday, December 13th. Consignments will be accepted in the evening on December 12th. Get some holiday shopping done!

All ladies of the church are invited to come to the kitchen on Friday, December 12th, at 7:00 p.m. for Christmas cookie making. These cookies will be delivered to the Open Pantry for the Children's Christmas Party on December 13th. If you have a favorite recipe you may bring the prepared dough. If not, please come to help and enjoy a warm visit with friends. A short business meeting of the Ladies Benevolent Society will take place.

This is the last week to place an order for a memorial Bible. The Board of Deacons would like to end their campaign to order replacement Bibles for the sanctuary by December 15th. They are looking for members and friends to donate copies as a memorial or in celebration of a loved one. The cost of each Bible is only \$10, including a memorial plate inside each copy. If you would like to purchase a Bible for the sanctuary, please call the office and a form will be mailed to you. Forms are also available on the credenza in Griswold Hall.

The Flower Committee will continue to take orders for poinsettias until December 10th. The flowers will be placed in the sanctuary during Advent and then delivered to shut-ins to enjoy for Christmas.

Lectors for the month of December are:

December 7th: Connie Hayes
December 14th: LiLing Waller
December 21st: Diane Fiejdaz
December 28th: Matt Granger

On the calendar:

Friday, December 5th: 7:00 p.m., Radio Club
Saturday, December 6th: 5:00-6:30 p.m., Operation Friendship Supper
Sunday, December 7th: 10:00 a.m., Communion
Monday, December 8th: 4:00-5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts; 6:30-7:30 p.m., Cub Scouts
Tuesday, December 9th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.; 7:30 p.m., Stewardship/Missions
Wednesday, December 10th: Desserts needed for Open Pantry; Deadline to order poinsettias; 7:00 p.m., Choir rehearsal; 7:30 p.m., Cub Scout Committee
Thursday, December 11th: 7:00 p.m., A.A.

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Church News - continued...

Singing Christmas Tree At Bethany Assembly Set For December

The 23rd annual Singing Christmas Tree of Bethany Assembly of God will be presented eight times over the first two weekends of December.

The Singing Christmas Tree consists of 70 singers arrayed on a steel structure in the shape of a Christmas tree ascending from the stage to the ceiling. The tree is decorated and the lights are computer-controlled, making for a stunning effect of music and lights.

This year's musical theme is "Joy to the World," which points to the advent of the Christ child as the vehicle by which God brought joy to the world.

The musical is written by Ken Bryars, the Minister of Music at Bethany Assembly and director of the Singing Christmas Tree, and orchestrated by Dave Williamson. The 70-voice choir is accompanied by the 20-piece Bethany Orchestra for the 45-minute presentation.

The presentations are scheduled for Friday, December 5th, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 6th, at 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 7th, at 3:00 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m.

The schedule is the same for the following weekend: Friday, December 12th, at 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, December 13th, at 6:00 p.m.; and Sunday, December 14th, at 3:00 p.m. and again at 6:00 p.m.

All seating is free. There will be signing for the deaf, and a nursery will be provided for infants.

The tree is new this year! The musical is new this year!

If you have seen the tree before, you need to see this brand new presentation of Bethany's Singing Christmas Tree. If you haven't, what a great way to kick off your Christmas season.

Bethany is easy to find on Route 57 at Main Street in Agawam. Join with us as we present our Christmas gift to the Pioneer Valley.

PLEASE REMEMBER that JACK DEVINE needs at least 48 hours notice to cover your event. IF JACK IS OUT, please leave a message and he will return your call promptly. Call Jack at 789-0053. Thanks.

Advent Activities Continue At First Baptist Church

Communion Sunday will be observed this week at the 9:30 a.m. service of worship at First Baptist Church. There will be special Christmas music by the choir.

The service will be conducted jointly by Pastor Richard Barnes and John Muncy, former member of the church. A social hour will follow worship in Davis Hall; classes are available for all ages until 11:45 a.m.

At 7:00 p.m., the second of four advent meetings will be held at the Baptist Church. These meetings are sponsored jointly with the Agawam Congregational Church. Guest speakers from different lands and cultures will be featured at each meeting.

On our calendar this week:

Monday, December 8th: 7:30 p.m., Word Search bible study group.

Tuesday, December 9th: 10:00 a.m., Searchlights (bible study group at the home of Virginia Catchepaugh); 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:00 p.m., Junior Youth Group.

Wednesday, December 10th: 7:15 a.m., Mid-Week Prayer Time; 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., Trading Post Open; 7:30 p.m., Church Committee.

Thursday, December 11th: 10:00 a.m., Bell Ringers Rehearsal; 1:15 p.m., EZ Does It Aerobics Class; 7:30 p.m., Choir Rehearsal.

Saturday, December 13th: 10:00 a.m., Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Musical; 1:00 p.m., Baptism class (Davis Hall).

"Twas The Night Before Christmas," a Christmas musical, will be presented on December 14th at the all-church Christmas party. Directed by Steve Bailey, it will be held in Bodurtha Hall following morning worship.

After the presentation, a Christmas luncheon will be held. The Agawam Baptist Church Bell Ringers will lead a Christmas sing-a-long. The event will be capped by a visit from Santa.

Don't miss this special event celebrating Christmas!

Caring Connection contacts for the month of December are Gwen and Jack Magovern, tel. 786-3542, and Linda Chicklas, tel. 786-1565.

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Advent Message To Be Given On Dec. 7th At Ag. United Methodist

The word from which advent is derived means "coming." During the advent season (usually four weeks), we prepare for the coming of Christ. He comes to us in many ways.

John tells us he is the word of God made flesh, in Jesus. Associated with his coming is the human rejection of Jesus. Scripture says, "He came to His own, and His own received Him not."

In our world, there is still much reject that pains as people continue to reject their own. Consider how rampant it has become for babies just born to be found in despicable places — garbage heaps, toilets, etc.

You say, "Not so at all, that couldn't be." Isn't that what today's news is all about? Yes, rejection! "I don't want him or her."

Adult people also experience rejection. Some people are not wanted not because they have nothing to contribute, but because they are not of the same race, culture, or creed as the majority.

On the contrary, often when given equal opportunity, they stand shoulder-to-shoulder with others. They are as wise, as intelligent, as honest, as loving, and sometimes more polite than others.

But we have seen that the rejected Jesus had the genius for leadership, for kingship, and for saviorhood. It is he alone that is capable of dwelling and reigning within the most wretched individual to make that individual a changed, loving, creative, and understanding person who, in our community, will not commit murder or try by other hideous crimes to make our world intolerable and unsafe for all to live.

The impact of the Christ whose coming we hail has always been to bring in the reign of God. Preparation for Christ's coming includes a call to repentance and an acceptance of forgiveness.

Join us at Agawam United Methodist Church in the second week of advent as we light the candle of hope and remember the words of John the Baptist who, during his ministry, encouraged all "to prepare the way of the Lord."

Join us for worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School is also at 9:30 a.m.

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Spotlight On Business

Snowbabies Galore This Weekend At Surprise! Card & Gift Of Agawam

"Small, wintry figures known as snow babies have brightened the imagination of adults and children from the late 1800s through today," said Bob McElligott, owner of Surprise! Card & Gift in the Southgate Shopping Plaza.

"Inspired by the clever designs and legends of the early figures, Department 56, Inc. introduced Snowbabies in 1987. Like antique versions, the handcrafted porcelain bisque Snowbabies collection features playful children bundled in snowsuits," according to McElligott.

Surprise! will hold a 10th Anniversary Celebration December 5th-7th, with Snowbabies Retirement Day festivities scheduled for Friday, December 5th.

Collectors and historians, intrigued by the story behind this internationally popular collectible, have searched for the origins of the first snow baby.

"Snowbabies enthusiasts often differ on where the snow baby originated," says Joan Serena, vice president of consumer and retail marketing for Department 56. "Most experts trace the snow baby to the polar expeditions of explorer Admiral Robert Peary or to German confectionery decorations."

The most popular account of the snow baby origin involves Peary and his daughter, Marie. When Marie was born in Greenland in 1893, Eskimos referred to her as "Ad-Poo-Mic-Kaninny," meaning "snow baby," because her skin was so white.

"The worldwide attention given to Peary's snow baby may have initiated development of the porcelain figures and led to their popularity in

Europe and the United States," says Serena.

Other enthusiasts trace the snow baby to 19th century Germany, where sugar dolls were used as holiday decorations. The candy figurines, called "tannenbaumkonfekt," were a mixture of flour, sugar, and gum thickener.

By the 1870s, the decorations had become so popular that a German confectioner commissioned Hertwig and Company to create snow babies from hand-whipped bisque. Other German manufacturers quickly followed with additional snow baby designs.

Near the turn of the century, the popularity of bisque snow baby figures spread to the United States, creating an even greater shortage in Germany. The bisque figures remained popular until the start of World War II, despite the disagreement on the origin.

"Many people consider Snowbabies among the most endearing collectibles," says Serena. "The mystery surrounding their origin furthers their charm and appeal."

The Department 56 Snowbabies collection features bisque porcelain figurines, ornaments, water globes, and music boxes reminiscent of the first figures. The finely detailed designs capture Snowbabies sledding, skating, and frolicking with winter animals. Most Snowbabies are packaged in storybook boxes with a poem to further the Snowbabies legend.

Stop in at Surprise! Card & Gift Shop during the Snowbabies® 10th Anniversary Celebration. To learn more about Snowbabies, call 1-800-LIT-TOWN or visit the Department 56 web site at www.department56.com.

Holiday Service Of Remembrance Offered On December 13th At Curran-Jones

Richard J. Curran and Joseph D. Curran, owners and operators of the Curran-Jones Funeral Homes of West Springfield and Agawam, and the Edward F. Day Funeral Home of Holyoke, announce their annual "Holiday Service of Remembrance" to be held at the Curran-Jones Funeral Home, 109 Main Street, West Springfield, on Saturday, December 13th at 2:00 p.m.

All those experiencing the loss of a loved one are welcome to join us for this special service.

Following with tradition, the Curran family has

made a donation to Brightside in memory of all they have serviced. A short memorial service will be conducted by local clergymen as well as the lighting of the Christmas wreath.

Also, Priscilla Hindmarsh, a local bereavement facilitator, will be sharing her comments. The Curran family hopes her words will help you find the love, hope, peace, and serenity of Christmas that will live forever, not only in presence, but in spirit.

For more information or to make reservations, please call 781-7766.

Pet Pictures At Dave's Soda & Pet Food City

Come into Dave's Soda & Pet City and have your family pet photographed with Santa! Your pet will go home with a great treat bag and you will go home with a wonderful picture of your pet.

The cost is only \$5, a portion of which will be donated to a pet charity!

Santa will be available for three photo sessions: 11 Ramah Circle, Agawam, Saturday, December

6th from 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.; Route 9, Hadley, Sunday, December 7th, 12:00 noon-4:00 p.m.; and 1330 Carew St., Springfield, Saturday, December 13th, 11:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

Sign-up forms will be available at the register. Schedule your pet photo today! Walk-ins are welcome.

Legal Memo

by

Alan J. Ferrigno, Esq.
546 Springfield St., F.H.
(413) 786-9454



Golfing Injury - Recklessness Standard

When a defendant golfer, while practicing his swing, accidentally struck and injured a plaintiff who was waiting to tee off, a subsequent legal action brought by the plaintiff should be governed by a recklessness standard.

In a recent case, although the recklessness standard did arise in the context of the often rough contact sport of hockey, the language of the case is more broadly worded. In that case, the court wished to narrow tort liability "lest the law chill the vigor of athletic competition."

Thus, the court adopted a "reckless disregard of safety" standard for personal injury cases arising out of an athletic event. This standard furthered the policy of vigorous and active participation in sporting events that should not be chilled by the threat of litigation.

The court did not accept the plaintiff's invitation to define the standard of care between two sporting participants. As long as the two participants are participating in a physical, athletic sport involving some danger of physical contact, the standard of recklessness should apply to the conduct of the participants.

Not only does case law support imposing a recklessness standard to participants in contact and non-contact sports alike, so does common sense.

Society has little interest in imposing liability on a tennis player who negligently overswings his racquet and hits another player, or a sailor whose attention wanders from the luffing sail and carelessly allows the boom to swing and hit another.

Sport allows us freedom of uninhibited movement and a respite from society's confining strictures concerning carelessness while not allowing us to engage in conduct that is willful, wanton, or reckless.

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Personal Responsibility...

Many patients develop chronic conditions due to not taking care of their bodies. Eating incorrectly, excess pounds, lack of stretching, lack of exercise, smoking, poor posture, not enough water intake, too much stress, and a myriad of others can create an imbalance in the body, which result in PROBLEMS and chronic conditions including high blood pressure, high cholesterol, pain, muscle spasms, digestive disorders, and on and on...

Sometimes it's overwhelming all the things we should do, so instead we just give up and not do any. That is not the correct solution.

Tackle one thing at a time. Once it becomes incorporated as a habit, tackle the next area. (Granted, for some of us, this may seem to take a lifetime. But as life goes on, you might as well strive towards healthy goals.)

I always mention to patients who gain weight when they stop smoking, "Don't worry about that now. First focus on stopping smoking, then focus on the weight."

It's easier to start good habits initially than to correct bad habits later. It is imperative to teach our children NOW, so they don't spend a lifetime trying to get off drugs, cigarettes, junk food, etc.

I feel the best way to teach our children is through knowledge, education, and example. If they know why not to drink colas, instead of a simple, "It's bad for you," it may make enough impact on them to stop drinking the stuff.

Children are pretty sharp; if they are given choices and the knowledge, many times they surprise us. As adults, we have to be disciplined and not buy the case of soda because it's "on sale and it's the only stuff the kids will drink." It's time to take control of our lives and our children's lives.

Currently, I'm thinking of putting together a seminar geared specifically towards children to discuss health issues including posture, nutrition, exercise, stress, etc. If you think this is a good idea and would be interested, please call our office and let us know.

As long as there are people willing to learn, we're willing to share our knowledge!

Dr. Nelson maintains an office at Hampden County Chiropractic, 850 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills, 786-4820.

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Fitness Tips...

Type II Diabetes

by Garen Stoebr
Fitness First Fitness Director

In order for us to understand the disease of Type II diabetes, we must briefly review the process the body goes through in order to utilize glucose as an energy source. Our bodies naturally change sugars and starches into a usable substance known as glucose. For glucose to enter the muscles, the hormone insulin must be present.

With Type II diabetes, there is an overabundance of insulin that is not effectively utilized by the body. This is referred to as "insulin resistance," which prohibits glucose from entering the muscles. If the glucose cannot enter the muscles it accumulates in the bloodstream. Type II diabetics, unlike Type I, are non-insulin dependent.

Type II diabetes tends to invade unhealthy bodies, usually those overweight and obese. It is imperative that these individuals change their eating habits in conjunction with an increase in activity levels. If this does not occur, the ramifications of elevated glucose levels are possible heart disease, kidney failure, nerve dysfunction, or blindness.

So what is recommended for exercise? One should work up to a minimum of five to six times per week. Cardiovascular exercise should be performed at a low intensity for 40-60 minutes. One should consider non weight-bearing activities such as water activity or cycling.

Of course, we should not overlook the benefits of resistance training and flexibility. It is weight training that is responsible for permanently increasing your metabolism. As always, consult your physician before beginning a program and continue to monitor those glucose levels. The typical lifestyle for a Type II diabetic must change, and the goals must be realistic.

Yoga For Seniors At Heritage Woods Starting January 7th

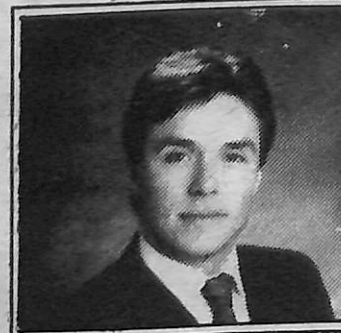
Heritage Woods Assisted Living is pleased to announce the return of "Yoga for Seniors." Back by popular demand, the program was so well received that we will be offering weekly classes open to the public beginning in the New Year.

Rita Frechette, a certified Kripalu Yoga Teacher and a certified Kripalu Bodyworker, leads the classes which emphasize a body centered approach enabling students to practice postures with safe technique and alignment.

Rita is a member of the Kripalu Yoga Teachers Association and presently teaches at the Wilbraham Senior Center, the Bevin-Kelly Rest Home in Holyoke, and is affiliated with Heartsong Yoga Center in East Longmeadow.

Classes are scheduled for every Wednesday from 10:00 -11:00 a.m. beginning on January 7, 1998 at Heritage Woods in the Agawam Activities Center.

Pre-registration is required. For more information or to register, call (413) 786-9704. Gift certificates for classes are also available.



Your Back And Your Health

by Dr. Joseph
S. Schlaffer
Schlaffer
Chiropractic Offices
192 Shoemaker Lane
Agawam

Hurt Slipping On Ice

Question: A recent slip on a patch of ice found me lying flat on my back. My neck snapped. I hurt for awhile. Luckily, nothing was broken. Now I'm starting to get neck pain with headaches. Now it seems that my fingers are falling asleep. Is this something I should see a chiropractor for?

Answer: Yes! Everyone knows how damaging a fall on the ice can be. You might suffer a concussion. It can cause an elderly person to break a hip or fracture an arm. Less obvious is disturbance to the spinal vertebrae. What you are describing is a fall significant enough to damage supportive tissue and misalign spinal vertebrae. This compresses or pinches nerves that exit from the spine resulting in headache and numbness in the arms/hands.

When vertebrae remain in an abnormal position for a period of time they begin to heal that way. Splinting occurs and the area becomes prone to degenerative changes and weakness. The longer you wait, the more difficult to correct.

If you understand the less obvious condition of misaligning the spine and its effect on your health, you're one step ahead! Call on a doctor of chiropractic for an examination. His/her area of expertise is careful analysis of the spine that could reveal a problem. Once found, correction through appropriate chiropractic treatment may save you months or years of suffering!

The SCHLAFER CHIROPRACTIC OFFICE welcomes anyone who may have been injured in a fall or accident. Call us at (413) 789-1369.

New Mothers' Support At Family Life Center At Mercy Hospital

New mothers are invited to share their questions and concerns at a New Mothers' Support Group, sponsored by the Family Life Center at Mercy Hospital. The next session will take place Dec. 10th, 10:30-11:30 a.m., in the Family Life Center lounge.

Meetings offer mothers with babies up to a year old the opportunity to talk with professionals from the Family Life Center's Parenting Education Department, and to share experiences and information with other new mothers.

Topics include newborn care, infant feeding, postpartum concerns, returning to work, and parenting issues. Babies and partners are welcome to attend.

For more information and to register, call the Family Life Center, (413) 748-7295.

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Arts

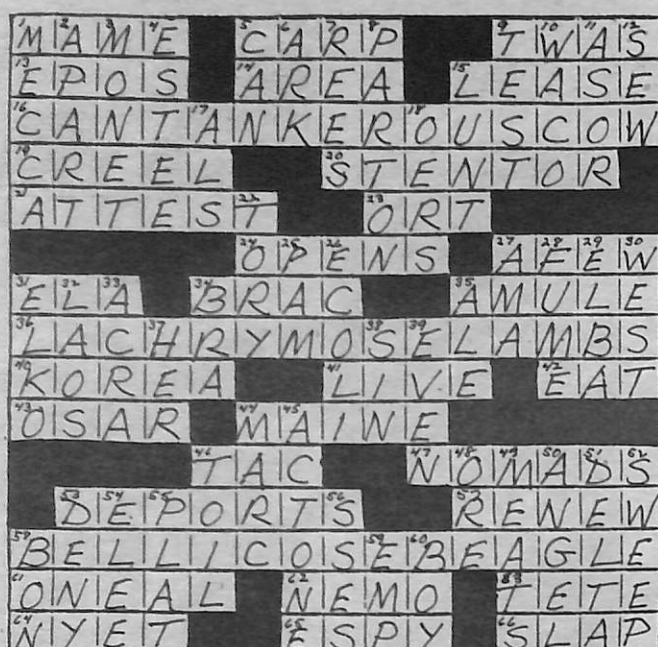
ACROSS

- 1 Backtalk
- 5 Totally alike
- 9 Small boat
- 13 Movie terrier
- 14 Jack Horner's fruit
- 16 Celebes' oxen
- 17 Tiresome one
- 18 Famous cow
- 19 Turnpike exit
- 20 Abolitionist's concern
- 23 Beer relative
- 24 Presidential nickname
- 25 Freedom of action
- 29 WWI battle site
- 31 "Red as a —"
- 33 Hurry
- 34 Superman's Lois
- 35 Rip apart
- 36 "If I — million"
- 37 A.M. covering
- 38 Openings
- 39 French seasons
- 40 Melville novel
- 41 Angers
- 42 Trueheart
- 43 Fabrey to friends
- 44 Singer Lawrence to friends
- 45 Ointment
- 46 Agree
- 48 Air (prefix)
- 49 Decade builders (abbr.)
- 52 Exhausted one's effort
- 56 Crowd sound
- 59 Lofty nest
- 60 Verdi opera
- 61 Choir member
- 62 Damp
- 63 Cut off
- 64 Equal
- 65 Compass headings
- 66 Layers

DOWN

- 1 Native Israeli

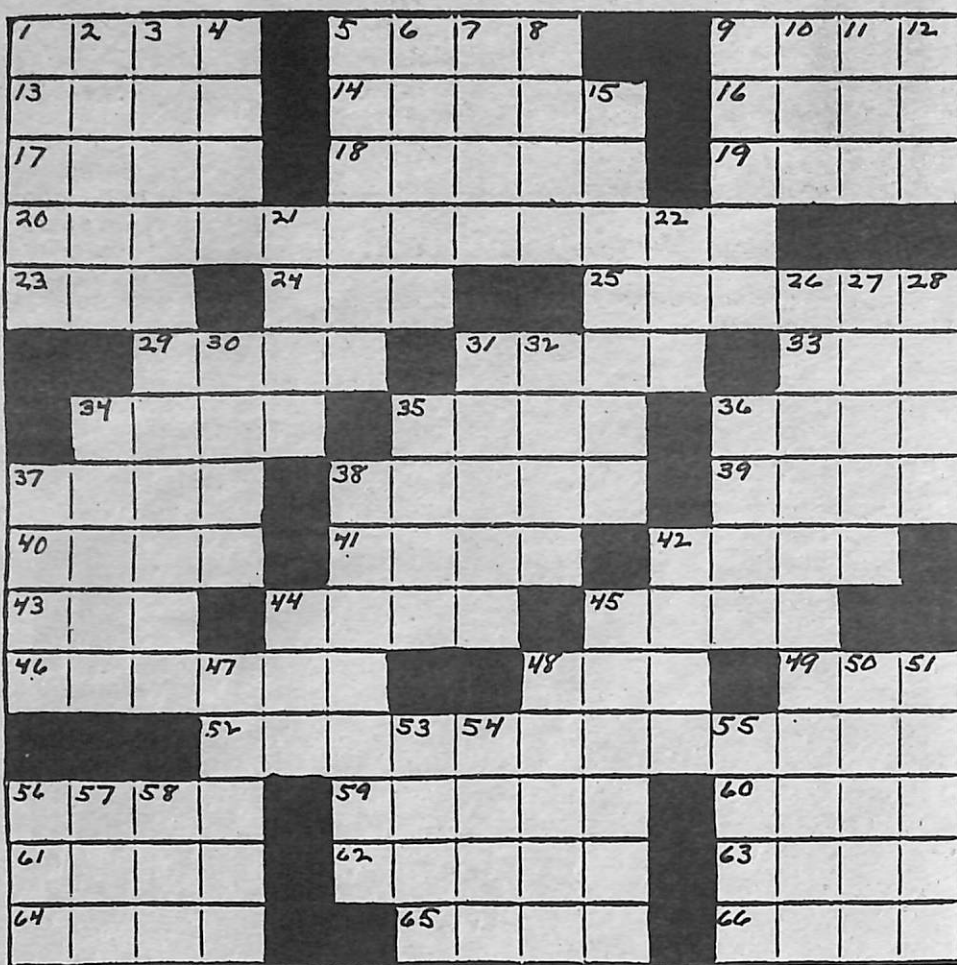
Last Week's Solution...



- 2 "Not — was stirring..."
- 3 Granite workers
- 4 Poetess Teasdale
- 5 Voices an opinion
- 6 "Oh Come — Faithful"
- 7 Mess up
- 8 Actor Jannings
- 9 Paris to the AEF
- 10 Actress O'Connor
- 11 "— de plume"
- 12 Faucet
- 15 Northern hunters
- 21 Port
- 22 Fido's doctor
- 26 T.V. panel show of old
- 27 Staff members
- 28 Certain votes
- 30 Aware of
- 31 Poet Stephen Vin-

- cent
- 32 Devours
- 34 Certain beans
- 35 Alaska once (abbr.)
- 36 Cad
- 37 Lisa with a smile
- 38 Hanoi's land
- 42 Poi root
- 44 Wildebeest
- 45 Sires
- 47 Shortstop's boner
- 48 Seed
- 50 French sculptor
- Auguste
- 51 Tit for tat deals
- 53 Modernists
- 54 Spring bloomer
- 55 Rambler maker
- 56 Mod style talk
- 57 Bullring cheer
- 58 Dine

MEET THE MASTER — by Dick Mastroianni



Best Local
News...
AAN!!!

Nostalgic Evening Of Holiday Magic Planned At Red Door Theatre

"A STOCKING FULL," an evening of a variety of Christmas presentations, will be presented at the RED DOOR THEATRE, 152 South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, MA, on December 5th and 6th at 7:30 p.m., and on December 6th and 7th at 2:00 p.m.

The program will feature Santa's Dancing Reindeer (a favorite of last year's audiences), who will do a tap routine to "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer," and a jazz routine to "Santa Claus Is Coming To Town."

This year's team consists of Morgan Allen, Lauren Gaffney, and Alyson Skok of Agawam; Ashley Beluzo of Westfield; Kara Lewantowicz of Southamptton; Nicole Messmer, Amy Modzelesky, and Kristin Morse of Suffield, CT; and Alex Kane of Granby, CT.

The Dancing Reindeer are only one of the many holiday surprises contained in this full evening of music, dance, and scripted works. There are 38 members of the cast lending their talents to moments sure to evoke nostalgia, humor, and childish delight that will make you want to shout "GOD BLESS US, EVERYONE!"

Tickets are \$7 for adults, and \$5 for seniors or children 12 and under. Reservations are a must and can be made by calling (413) 789-2026.

Come let up put you in the mood for the holiday season!

Agawam Library Has Holiday Programs For School Kids, Families

AFTER SCHOOL HOLIDAY CRAFTS

Agawam and Feeding Hills children in kindergarten or older may attend a "Holiday Craft" program on either Wednesday, December 10th from 4:00-5:00 p.m., or on Thursday, December 11th from 4:00-5:00 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper Street.

Activities will include making personalized holiday cards, and a party favor. PLEASE REGISTER FOR ONE SESSION BY CALLING 789-1550 OR VISITING THE LIBRARY.

A VISIT WITH MRS. CLAUS

Agawam and Feeding Hills families are invited to the library on Saturday, December 13th from 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon to hear stories with "Mrs. Claus." She will be bringing a snack from the North Pole.

PLEASE SIGN UP BY CALLING 789-1550 OR VISITING THE LIBRARY.

SSO's "Holiday Pops" Is Set For December 6th & 7th

It's that time of year again! The Springfield Symphony Orchestra and Springfield Symphony Chorus will take the stage at 8:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 6th, and again at 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, December 7th, at Springfield Symphony Hall to celebrate the season with **Holiday Pops**.

An exciting program of favorites, along with an audience sing-along, led by Maestro Smith, a surprise guest, and more, await the nearly 5,000 people that make this special concert the start of their holiday season every year.

The concert begins with traditional holiday selections, including *Greensleeves*, *God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen*, *Silent Night*, *Carol of the Bells*, *O Come All Ye Faithful*, and selections from Handel's *Messiah*, to name a few. In celebration of Chanukah, Cantor Morton Shames will repeat last year's stirring performance of *L'Dor Vador*.

The audience then chooses what the Orchestra will play in an all-new "Festival of Sleigh Rides." After intermission, the Holiday Pops sled on with the SSO's "Musical Tribute to Ice and Snow." Popular selections rounding out the program include *Let it Snow*, *Let it Snow*, *Let it Snow*; *Frosty the Snowman*; and a *Christmas Sing-Along*.

Holiday Pops on December 6th is sponsored by Fleet Bank, with Sunday's matinee performance sponsored by BayPath College. The media sponsor for both concerts is WGGB-TV/News 40, and additional funding has been provided by the Massachusetts Cultural Council and the Business Friends of the Arts.

Tickets for the SSO's **Holiday Pops** are available at the Springfield Symphony Orchestra Box Office at 75 Market Place in downtown Springfield, or can be charged by phone (VISA, MasterCard, Discover) at (413) 733-2291. Ticket prices range from \$5 to \$35, children 17 and under are half price, and a 25 percent discount is available for groups of 10 or more.

Audience members are encouraged to bring new unwrapped toys for the benefit of The Springfield Girls' Club Family Center. The Springfield Symphony Orchestra invites you to "Be an Ear Witness" and celebrate the season with **Holiday Pops**.

check our classified

Ransom Of Red Chief Includes Town Actors In West Side Show

The Theater Project will present O'Henry's acclaimed short story "The Ransom of Red Chief" December 4, 1997 through January 4, 1998, according to Theater Project founder Danny Eaton.

Sondra Radosh will direct the holiday play, which is geared for all members of the family. Appearing in the production will be Agawam resident Sara Dorans as Mary Alice.

The play, the second presentation of the Theater Project's full season, will be followed by "Robeson" (January 20-February 12, 1998), "The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui" (February 19-March 14, 1998), and an encore presentation of "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story" (April 2-May 9, 1998).

"The Ransom of Red Chief" is the third production the Theater Project has presented in its new permanent sit. Immediately following the renovation of the long-abandoned Majestic Theater last spring, the Theater Project launched "Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story" to rave reviews and an extended run. A number of Holly historians, including his widow, Maria Elena, attended and approved of the show.

Tickets for "The Ransom of Red Chief" range from \$12 to \$17 depending on the time of performance, and can be purchased by calling the box office at (413) 747-7797. Discounts are available for students, seniors, and groups. In addition, season subscriptions for the Theater Project are currently available by calling the box office.

WestFest Committee Seeking Volunteers

The 1998 edition of WestFest will take place on May 16th and 17th at Stanley Park in Westfield. Each year, the festival is planned and executed by an unpaid volunteer staff.

This year, we are in desperate need of committee members and volunteers. There are many committees that have unfilled slots. A few hours of your time will ensure the continuation of this great event.

If you would like to work on WestFest 1998 and/or require further information, please call 568-2962.



Education



AT THE AGAWAM ELEMENTARY PLAYScape COMMITTEE AUCTION on Saturday, November 22nd, at Oak Ridge Golf Club. Back row - Louise Kuczarski and Laura Paul, Playscape Committee; and Joe & Rose Rossi, auctioneers. Front row - Whitney Brust, Dawn Hilbruner, and Carol Friedrich, Playscape Committee members. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



SHOWING OFF MORE of the items auctioned at the Saturday, November 22nd fundraiser for the Agawam Elementary Playscape Committee at Oak Ridge Golf Club were committee members, from left - Deb Sekula, Melanie Sapelli, Corinne Lafontaine, and Cathy Blood. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Auction Brings \$10,000 For Ag. Playscape Committee

The bids were flying at the Agawam Elementary Playscape Committee's **Product and Service Auction** held Saturday, November 22nd, at Oak Ridge Country Club. The auction was a great success, earning over \$10,000 towards new playscapes for Agawam's four elementary schools and putting the committee "over the top" in its fundraising efforts.

To date, AEPC has raised \$43,235 in total, which will now be matched with town funds of \$80,000, giving a total of \$123,235 available for the purchase of new playscapes for the four schools. The playscapes are expected to be installed upon the completion of the additions/renovations at the schools.

Community support has been tremendous for this project. Many, many local businesses and organizations have generously donated cash, products, or certificates for services in support of the auction. This has truly been a community-wide effort to provide up-to-date, safe play equipment for all of our children.

In fact, supporters have been too numerous to mention and thank in this article, but look for the list in an upcoming issue of *The Agawam Advertiser/News*.

AEPC greatly appreciates the support and generosity of all involved. Our dream will now be a reality!



SHOWING OFF SOME OF THE ITEMS auctioned off for the Agawam Playscape Committee on Saturday, November 22nd at Oak Ridge Golf Club were Playscape Committee members, from left - Stephanie Bertagnolli, Gayle Lombardini, Margaret Timmons, and Amanda Mattarazzo. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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AHS Peer Leaders Raise \$1,000 For McDonald House

by Kathy Cassanelli
News Editor

Agawam High School students are helping to bring the comforts of home to families with children undergoing long-term treatment at area hospitals.

Last week, the AHS Peer Leaders presented representatives of Springfield's Ronald McDonald House with \$1,000 in cash and rolled coins. The money was collected by the 24 Peer Leaders during the last week in October as their annual community service project. It was their most successful fundraiser ever, according to advisor Linda Sasso.

Homeroom Competition

Mrs. Sasso explained that the money is raised in a competition between homerooms centering around a Costume Day to celebrate Halloween. The students pay 50 cents for the privilege of wearing a costume to school on Halloween, or they can simply make a donation to the fund if they aren't planning on dressing up on Costume Day.

Each year, a spirit of friendly competition between homerooms adds an extra air of excitement, not to mention extra dollars in the coffers, as the students vie for the honor of bringing in the most money.

"This turned out so fabulously for everyone involved," Mrs. Sasso said. "I am overwhelmed by the generosity of our staff and students. There were so many reports of teachers putting in a twenty dollar bill and challenging their class to match it."

Music teacher Stephen Files said his choreography students won the competition because they were generous. "We got into the spirit of the whole event," Files said. "Miss (Tamara) Watson and I were very enthusiastic in encouraging the kids."

Support from community fundraisers is essential to operating the home-from-home for families with children facing extended hospital stays and outpatient treatments. Contrary to popular belief, Ronald McDonald house does not receive corporate sponsorship from the McDonald's Corporation.

Volunteer Coordinator Suzanne Herlihy said the Springfield Ronald McDonald House, along with the other 173 houses around the world, can apply for grants from the Ronald McDonald House Children's Charities, but they are on equal footing with any other children's group seeking the funding.

Sustained By The Community

"It is the community that sustains our house," Ms. Herlihy said. "When the house was first built, the McDonald's Restaurants gave us a lump sum of money, but now the most important source of our funding is the community. We need their help."

For the most part, the home operates on volunteer power. This year, a new "Teen Board" was created to give local teens the opportunity to put their talents and skills to work helping the children and their families feel more at home.

Heidi Benton, one of the AHS Peer Leaders, heard about the "Teen Board" from her guidance counselor and immediately signed on.

"I got involved because I really love kids and plan on a career working with kids. The families are in need of help and many of them don't have much money. It means a lot to them to have someone come in and sit with the kids and read to them. It means a lot to the parents to think that their kids are important to me," Heidi said.

"Teen Board" advisor Ginny Hyde said the teens have helped out with secretarial chores, yardwork, baking holiday pies, and even cooking for the families.

A Tremendous Help

"Our families are here seven days a week, preparing their own meals, so having someone come and cook for them is like going out to a restaurant," Ms. Herlihy added. "I can't begin to tell you how much the 'Teen Board' has helped us."

Applications for the "Teen Board" will be available at Ronald McDonald House in January or from the High School Guidance Office.

Ms. Herlihy said the house relies on its annual birthday gala celebration at Chez Josef in January, as well as the Lights of Love Program of sponsorships for Christmas lights for a substantial part of its operating budget.

For more information on the fundraisers, call 784-5683.



PICTURED ABOVE ARE Agawam High School Peer Leaders with Principal Joseph Zabielski (back row) and their faculty advisor Linda Sasso. Music teacher Stephen Files (right) and his choreography students brought in the most money in the school. Advertiser News

photo by Jack Devine.



FIRST GRADERS in the classrooms of Gail Curnow and Joyce Rheaume presented "The First Thanksgiving" on Wednesday, November 26th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Clark School First Graders Present "The First Thanksgiving"

A first-grade classroom at James Clark School, co-taught by Mrs. Gail Curnow and Mrs. Joyce Rheaume, presented their third annual presentation of "The First Thanksgiving."

The show began with Turkey Trivia, Turkey Wit, and Let's Talk Turkey, presented by Brendan O'Brien, game show host, and his assistant, Kim Dorans. Then the play proceeded with Denise Gates/Mother Goodwell, Stephen Berselli/Father Goodwell, Cori Geiger/Hope Goodwell, Nick Sarnelli/John Goodwell, Laura Sapelli/Sarah, Justin Chartier/Miles, Steven Fiedler/Squanto, and Justin Adams/Red Feather, with all other classmates participating as narrators, Indian actors, and sign bearers.

Thanksgiving songs were sung by Mrs. Starkie played the piano. A feast followed the play and all the food was donated by the parents of the class.

Special thanks to our distinguished guests,

Mrs. Sandra Howard, our play m.c. and principal of our school, Dr. Ameruso, Mayor Johnson, Mr. Charest, Dr. Brosnan, Mrs. Mineo, and Mrs. Root for attending and supporting our production.

Special thanks as well to Mrs. Helene Gates for her scenery and stage props, and Mrs. Bonnie Krapf for sewing Pilgrim girl costumes. To be enjoyed by all on display at the feast were the following examples of class work:

Math - turkey adding and subtracting; science - germinating and planting Indian corn seeds; social studies - Plymouth Village model; and language arts - literature response to "Oh What A Thanksgiving," Thankful Nouns, and powwow/friendship bags.

All table decorations were created by the students as well. Thanks, parents and students of Room 2. We are all so proud of you! We are a great team!

Breakfast With Santa On December 7th

Santa Claus is coming to town! Look for Santa on December 7th. He will be visiting Agawam Middle School from 9:00-11:30 a.m. to meet all good boys and girls for a pancake and sausage breakfast.

He is asking that children bring their letters addressed to Santa if they have not mailed them. Photos will be taken of Santa and your child upon request.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is sponsor-

ing the breakfast and looks forward to the many children who attend every year. Tickets will be available at the door. Cost for adults is \$4; and \$2.50 for children. Photos are \$2 each. Food during the holiday season this year is in short supply for our elderly and our needy in town. A donation of a canned good would be appreciated.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the GFWC in Massachusetts.

NO ONE covers all the hometown sports like us, every week.

“Autumn Artwork” On Display At James Clark School



Guidance Column...

by Paul C. Cavallo
Deputy Principal

The Results Of The PSAT's...

Those students who took the PSAT's in October will be contacted by their guidance counselors in the next two weeks to discuss their test results. Each student will receive his original text booklet and a detailed answer sheet in which both the correct and incorrect responses are detailed.

What does all this mean to the students? Since most of the students who took the test are juniors, they most likely will take the SAT-I in May of 1998. After a careful examination of their scores with their counselors and parents, a decision should be made about what students can do to improve his/her scores (if necessary).

For example, one choice may be to enroll in an SAT Preparation course. Such a course will be offered through the Agawam Adult Education program beginning in March 1998. More information about this will follow in future columns.

If this is not a viable choice, the student may want to use the SAT-I CD Rom program after school. Finally, there are many study guides for the SAT-I available in any bookstore, but the student must discipline himself/herself to study the guide over a five-month period in order to adequately prepare for the SAT-I.

Together, parents and students should review the exam questions and answers. The main purpose for taking the PSAT is to become aware of the composition of the SAT-I. Also, for many students it is their first experience taking a 2½-hour exam.

GUIDANCE BULLETIN

COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE: If you are interested in meeting with the following college representative, you should sign up at least a day in advance in the guidance office. Pick up your pass the day of the visit.

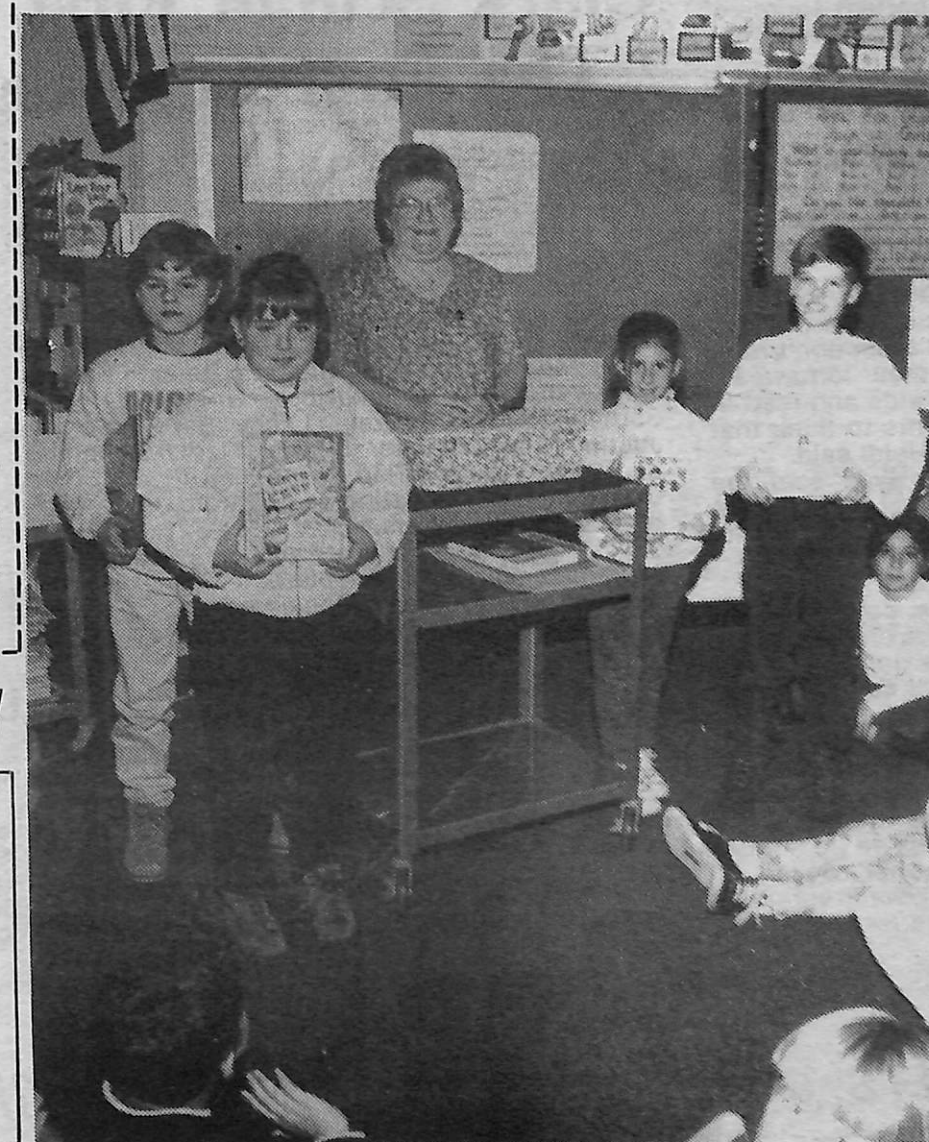
December 9th: New England College, 12:15 p.m.

SCHOLARSHIPS: If you need more information or an application, you should see your counselor.

Big Y Scholarships: Big Y Scholarships recognize academic merit and achievement. They are open to employees and their dependents and customers and their dependents who live in Western or Central Massachusetts or Connecticut. Deadline: February 1, 1998.

OPEN HOUSE:

Pine Manor College - Friday, December 12th.



USING THE THEME “Fruit & Vegetable Man,” third grade students at Clark School created harvest quilts that were hung in the school's hallway. **IN PHOTO AT LEFT,** Children's Librarian Jeanne Hoffman, who promoted the program at the school, is pictured with students David Belyshev, Kate Moran, Alysha Lewis, and Nico Connor. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Agawam High School's Calendar Of Events For December

December 5th: Senior Class Kid Party, AHS Cafeteria.

December 8th: Band Parents' meeting. Financial Aid Night sponsored by the Guidance Department, 7:00 p.m.

December 9th: Peer Leadership training at the Agawam Police Station.

December 11th: Back-to-Sport Night, 7:00 p.m., AHS auditorium.

December 12th: Renaissance holiday celebration; Winter Athletic Media Day.

December 15th: Jazz Band performance at West Farms Mall, 6:30 p.m.

December 15th-19th: “Toy for Joy” collection sponsored by National Honor Society.

December 17th: Winter Concert, 7:00 p.m., AHS auditorium; Math Club holiday celebration.

December 18th: AHS School Improvement Council meeting, 7:00 p.m.

December 22nd-23rd: Alcohol Awareness sponsored by Peer Leadership; Chain of Life sponsored by Peer Leadership.

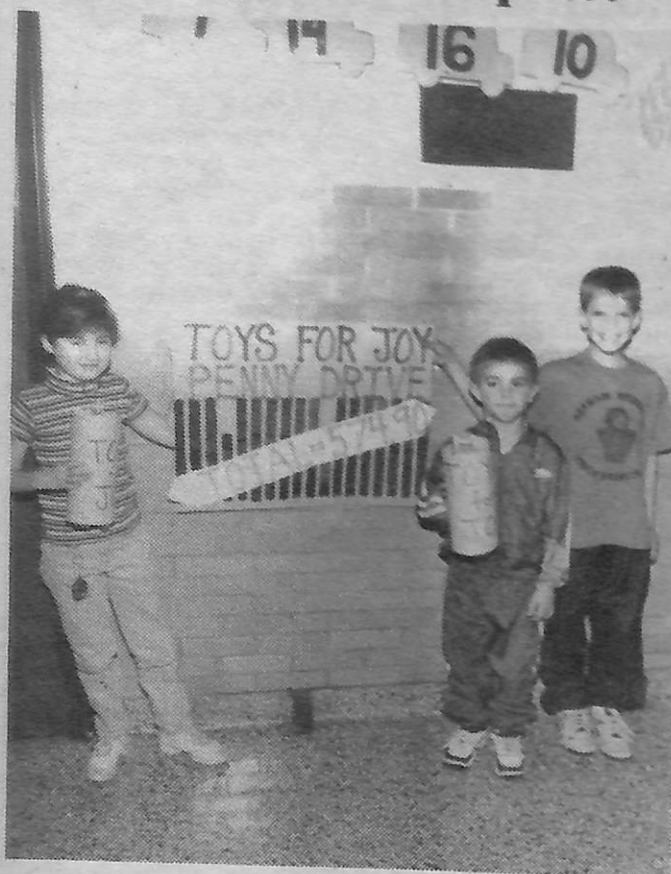
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WANTED:

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Giving At Phelps...



PHELPS SCHOOL kicked off its "Month of Giving" by holding a "Penny Drive" the week of November 17th-21st. The children raised \$574.90, which will be donated to the "Toys For Joy." Helping to promote the fundraising campaign are students Heather Moffatt, Danny Masciotra, and Ryan Sullivan. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Community Caroling At Granger School On Fri., Dec. 5th

The Granger School P.T.O. will be sponsoring a community caroling party on Friday, December 5th.

Everyone will be meeting on the green in front of Granger School. At 6:00 p.m., the group will proceed to the elderly complex on North Westfield Street.

Caroling will take place door-to-door at the complex, delivering cards made in the children's classes. The group will then walk back to Granger for the lighting of the tree on the school green and a social hour.

Please dress warmly, bring flashlights and loud singing voices.

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"Financial Aid Night" To Be Held On December 8th At AHS

For the past 25 years, the Agawam High School guidance department has held a Financial Aid Night in December, and for most of those years Dr. Lee Sirois, Director of Financial Aid at AIC, has presented a most informative program about the financial aid process for higher education.

On Monday, December 8, 1997, the program will be repeated. Dr. Sirois will explain the process in detail, highlighting important changes in the form from last year. This program is most important for those parents who must complete the forms. Making sure that the forms are done correctly is of paramount importance.

Dr. Sirois will entertain questions during the program. If they are of a very personal nature, one can talk to him privately after the program. Also, Dr. Sirois welcomes parent calls at his office at AIC to answer questions about the process.

Parents, **don't forget** — Monday, December 8, 1997, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the high school cafeteria. Bring a pencil or pen and notepaper. Students are also welcome.

Jr. Women's Club Accepting Letters To Santa Claus

The Agawam Junior Women's Club, once again, is asking all good girls and boys to send their letters to Santa Claus at the North Pole.

Make sure you send a stamped, self-addressed envelope along with your letter so that Santa can reply.

Santa's elves enjoy delivering your letters to Santa and Mrs. Claus as it brings them good cheer on this joyous holiday season. To get your letter to the North Pole in time, address your envelope to SANTA, c/o 24 Tanglewood Lane, Feeding Hills, MA 01030-1527.

The Agawam Junior Women's Club is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the GFWC in Massachusetts.

Holiday Concert At Bay Path College On Wed., December 10th

Bay Path College will hold its annual Holiday Concert and Service of Lights on Wednesday, December 10th, at 7:30 p.m. in Mills Theatre, Carr Hall, on the Longmeadow campus.

The event is open to the public, free of charge. A tradition at Bay Path for many years, this candlelight concert features holiday music by the student Chorale and smaller singing group, the Chamber Singers/Keynotes, and the audience is invited to join in singing traditional Advent and Christmas carols. Seasonal readings will also be presented by the college chaplains and students of the Interfaith Council.

A reception in Blake Student Center dining room will follow the concert, where the Keynotes will also entertain.

Best local news...

Agawam Schools' Weekly Lunch Menu

Monday, December 8th: Hot dog in roll, oven baked beans, seasoned green beans, fresh mac apple, milk.

Tuesday, December 9th: Hamburg w/gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned niblet corn, wheat bread & butter, chocolate cake w/icing, milk.

Wednesday, December 10th: Rotini w/meatsauce, Italian bread & butter, seasoned broccoli cuts, chilled mixed fruit cup or jello w/topping, milk.

Thursday, December 11th: Grilled cheese sandwich, sweet pickle chips, oven potato puffs w/catsup, niblet corn, chocolate pudding w/topping, milk.

Friday, December 12th: Roast turkey w/gravy on whipped potatoes, seasoned peas & carrots, wheat bread & butter, apple crisp, milk.

Deborah McKenna In UMass Golden Key

Deborah J. McKenna, daughter of Debbie and Mike McKenna, Butternut Drive, Agawam, has become a member of the University of Massachusetts Amherst chapter of Golden Key.

Golden Key is a national academic honor society formed to recognize and encourage outstanding scholastic achievement in all fields of study. Membership is by invitation to juniors and seniors who have maintained at least a 3.5 cumulative average on a four-point scale.

McKenna is a member of the Class of 1999 majoring in English and secondary education at the University. She graduated from Agawam High School in 1995.

Middle School PTO Slates Board Mtg.

The next Agawam Middle School PTO Board Meeting will be held in the school cafeteria on Monday, December 8th at 7:30 p.m. All parents are welcome to attend.

Congratulations to Room 208 for donating the largest number of food items, which were collected in November for local Holiday Baskets.

Start going through your cupboards as well shall be repeating this again for Holiday Baskets in December. The students will be notified of the days we shall be collecting.

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Counseling Center Offers GED Program To Prepare For Test

For most kids, school is an enjoyable and pretty exciting form of work. When learning disabilities, emotional problems, or family stress don't get in the way, most children find a niche for themselves and successfully complete school around 18 or so. They are ready for work, for additional training, or higher education.

Sometimes, however, things do get in the way, and teenagers find that school becomes a prison or a place of repeated failure. Soon it seems that the only way out is to *drop out*.

Unfortunately, this decision often leaves a residue of poor self-esteem, low-paying jobs, and job insecurity. Once past the usual age of high school, it becomes harder and harder to return to the world of traditional schooling.

There are a number of programs available to assist people who wish to obtain a Graduate Equivalency Diploma, or GED. At the **Agawam Counseling Center**, we have a program of GED assessment and pre-testing which can help you decide whether or not you are ready to take the GED test. We can help build your self-confidence and ease some of your test anxiety.

The program meets twice a week and costs \$5 a week. Call the **Agawam Counseling Center** at 786-6410 for more information.

Junior Stamp Club Seeking New Members

The Agawam Junior Stamp Club is beginning its second year. It began out of the interest shown by Granger School students during their "What is a Million?" project.

Stamp club members meet monthly with a teacher sponsor and a parent stamp collector leader. Current members include students from third grade through junior high school.

Parents, as well as students, are both learning and enjoying themselves.

For further information, contact Bonnie Moccio at 821-0580 or Glen LaFontaine at 786-4728.

Baystate Dental Care Scholarship Fund Offered To High School Seniors

Drs. Kevin Coughlin and John J. Sullivan IV have announced the creation of the Baystate Dental Care Scholarship Fund. The ever-community minded dental practice also announced the creation of three \$5,000 scholarships.

A 1976 graduate of Agawam High School and formerly of Feeding Hills, Dr. Coughlin is the son of Ralph and Joyce Coughlin of Feeding Hills.

"We thought about calling it the 'we'll buy your books for four years' scholarship," said Dr. Coughlin, "but it was just too long to say. We just want to help some students from our area who need assistance. There are many bright kids who need a little help. Hey, if we can buy their books for a couple of years, it makes us feel great!"

The practice, known for its outstanding community efforts in sports dentistry and (most recently) mouth guard legislation, believes in giving back to the community.

"Kevin and I are from here," said Dr. Sullivan. "We love our community, our families love the community. We all have a real sense of loyalty to the area and we want to do our part to help. This is a start in giving back to the area that gave us so much and to help someone the way we were helped by the community."

Participant Eligibility

Participants must:

- * Be a high school senior at any public or private high school in Western Massachusetts.
- * Maintain a "B" average at midterm of senior year.
- * Be a patient (or immediate family must be a

patient) at any of the three offices of Baystate Dental Care for a minimum of six months.

* Provide verifiable participation in community service project(s) and/or organizations. In lieu of community service, participant can submit two written recommendations by 1) family member and 2) teachers, minister, senator, mayor, etc., attesting to the academic efforts and desire to pursue a college degree.

* Be available and participate in awards ceremony and publicity events.

(Employees of and suppliers to Baystate Dental Care are not eligible to participate in this program.)

Judging

Three prominent members of the community from various fields such as journalism, education, volunteerism, medicine, and law will be chosen to judge the merits of each entrant and select finalists. No member or employee of Baystate Dental Care will participate in the judging.

Application

Applications will be available and accepted at any of the three Baystate Dental Care offices. Deadline for applications is December 31, 1997.

Presentation

Scholarship recipient(s) will be announced on May 15, 1998. Awards will be presented at a ceremony to be announced at a later date.

Baystate Dental Care Offices

1795 Main Street, Springfield, 733-6651; 49 Southwick Road, Westfield, 572-9665; and 294 North Main Street, East Longmeadow, 525-9500.

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Sports

11 Turnovers On Chilly Thanksgiving Morning...

Huge Fourth Quarter Gives AHS Turkey Day Bragging Rights Over West Side

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

The coaching staff, the players, and the faithful all knew a change had to be made if the Brownie football team had any hope of a Turkey Day triumph against archrival West Springfield. Their 27-8 win last Thursday at wind-chilled Harmon Smith Field before 3,500 fans was a tribute to the philosophy that if it is indeed 'broke,' you had better fix it.

The 2-6-1 Brownie record over their first nine games screamed for an overhaul. Coach Dean Vecchiarelli and his coaching staff took the hint. They scrapped their familiar 'I' formation, which wasn't making the nut, installing instead a split back, option offense.

Then, in the last week-and-a-half of practice, after their 16-16 tie with Comp, the team worked their butts off getting it up to speed. They fine-tuned it in the gym, in the stadium, out in the parking lot, and on their hard and icy practice field—many times staying out until there was little light left in the day. It was a gamble of sorts. Considering what happened come game day, it was a gamble worth taking.

Loaded For Bear ... Or Is That Brownie?

The Terriers came to Harmon Smith Field loaded for bear (or in this case - Brownie). They were a miserable 1-9. But records mean nothing in this hallowed series which stretches back to 1924. The frosty fans on hand, faithful from both towns, were treated to an exciting but sloppy contest.

Agawam won the toss, thus getting an early opportunity to show off its new offense. However, after one yard runs by Brian Gallagher and Vinnie Curto, and a seven yard gain by quarterback Brian St. Jean, they had to punt.

The Brownie defense, which had been much maligned this season, shut the Terriers down. A punt saw the Agawam offense get a second chance at its own 22 yard line. Gallagher got eight off left tackle. Then a botched snap found its way

into the hands of a West Side defender. That turnover would be one of four on the day for Agawam (all fumbles). The Terriers would chip in with seven (four via interceptions, three on fumbles) for a game total of 11 by both sides.

The Brownie defense got the ball back on the next play courtesy of a Brian St. Jean interception (his third of the year) at the Agawam 10 yard line. Then, the new offense began to click. Fifteen yards on four tries by Gallagher, two pass plays to Melbourne (4-94, 1 TD) which covered 18 and 14 yards, respectively, saw the Brownies camped on the Terrier 19 when time ran out in the first quarter. Senior fullback Vinnie Curto (12-22, 1 TD) bulled for six. A Terrier personal foul brought the ball to West Side's six yard line. Then disaster struck.

With one minute gone in the second quarter, Gallagher bolted up the middle on second and goal at the four. When they untangled the pile, everyone got up but Gallagher. The big junior was down with a severely sprained right ankle.

"It was just a little hand-off. I was following Vinnie (Curto). The West Side kid tackled me low," Gallagher said later.

Done For The Day

He didn't know how bad it was and felt that after an ice job, he could come back in the second half. He would come back, in street clothes, on the golf cart. He would be carrying crutches rather than a football. "Mister Stratton (trainer Dave Stratton) looked at it in the locker room and said I was done for the day," Gallagher noted.

The big junior had 899 yards going into the game. He would have 30 on seven carries this day, falling 71 yards short of a 1,000 yard season. But he was more concerned with how his teammates would adjust than about a milestone no longer within his reach this year. "They had to step up. It was a day for the seniors," he smiled.

Indeed it was. Curto, behind some blowout blocking by Ryan Wilson, Eric Pederson, and George Graves, bulldozed the ball over from the one at 10:03 to give the Brownies a 6-0 lead. St. Jean hit Marc Pedraza for the two point conversion. The 16 play, 90 yard drive took 7:43. Agawam led, 8-0.

The Terriers' next possession took them all the way to a first and goal at the Brownie six yard line with 4:57 left in the half. A fumbled pitch was recovered by Agawam's Mike Wing. Just like that, the Brownies were on their own 16 and headed the other way. Just like that, they fumbled back.

West Side got the ball and stood first and 10 at the Agawam 14. The Terriers, you guessed it, still treating the ball like it was a live grenade, bobbled it a second time and the Brownies pounced, recovering at their three yard line.

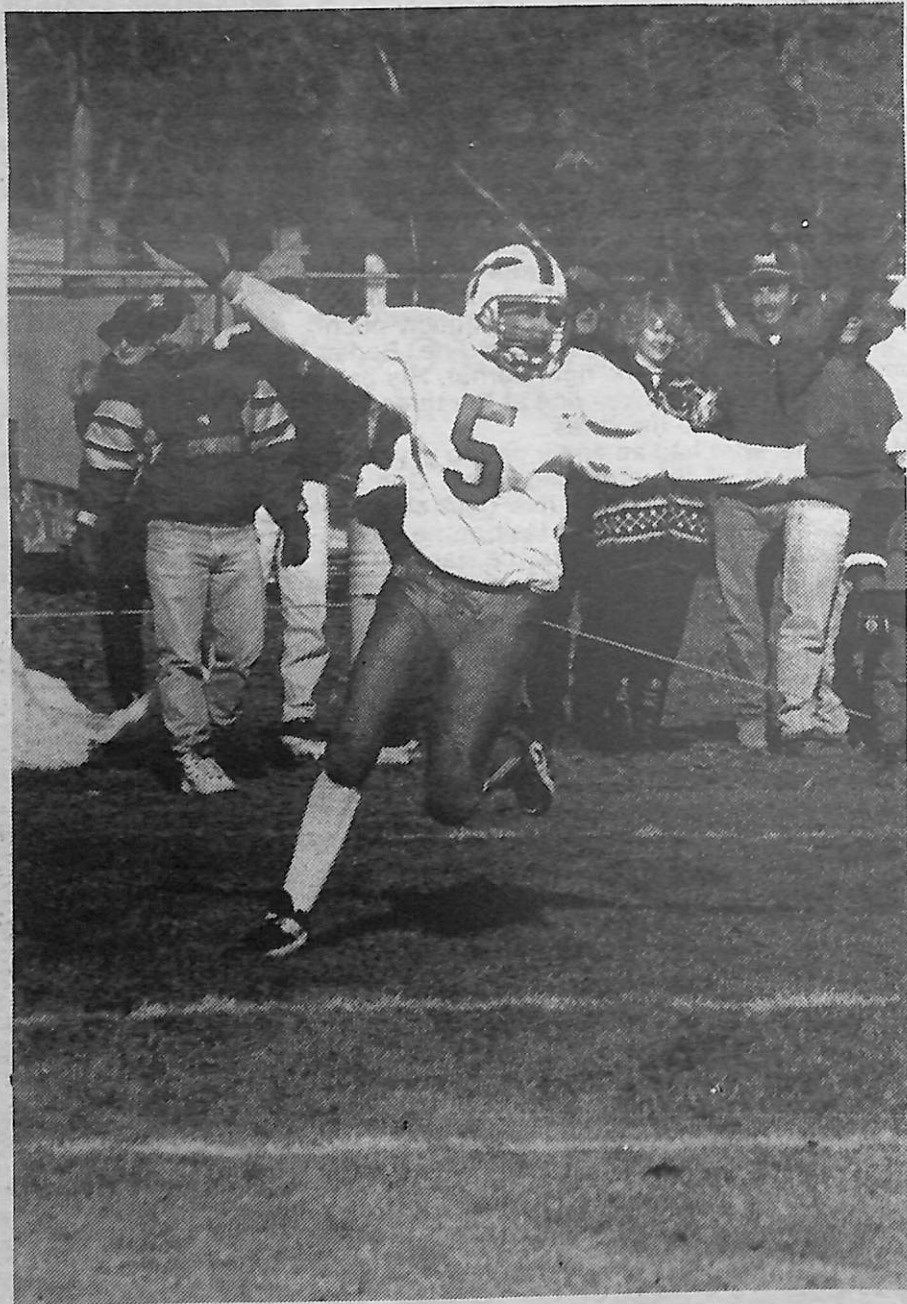
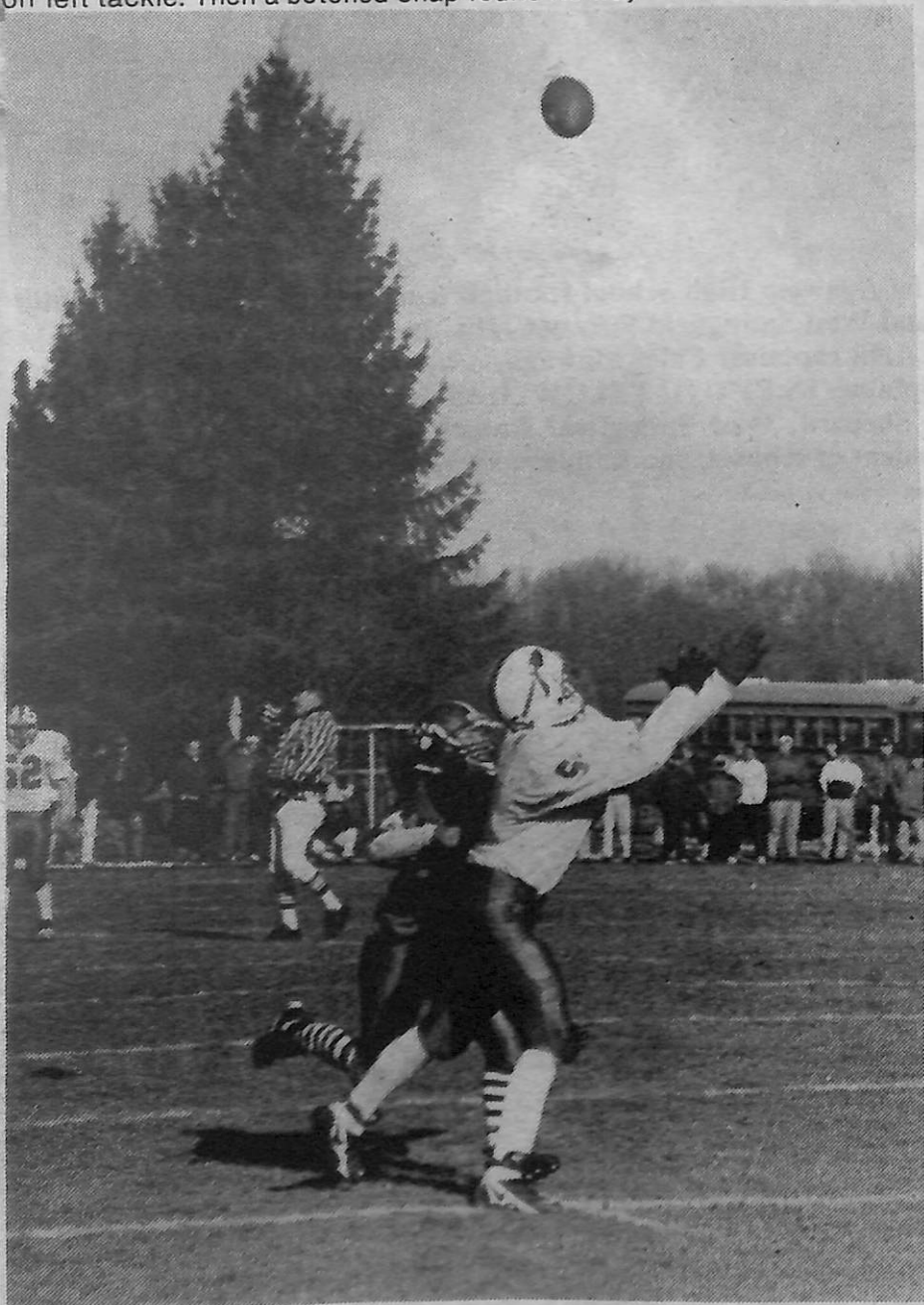
After a 16 yard run by Brian St. Jean and a 16 yard pass to Mike Wing, an Agawam fumble saw the Terriers recover the ball at the Brownie 39. However, the Agawam defense was up to the task, shutting down the Terriers. The Brownies got the ball back on downs and went into the locker room with an 8-0 half-time lead.

West Side made some adjustments during the break. And it showed on their first possession of the second half. Behind the running of sophomore running back Hank Wesloski, who gained 33 yards on six carries, they went 66 yards on 15 plays in seven minutes for a score on a one yard plunge by quarterback Chris Barker. Mark Foresi's two point conversion tied things up at 8-8 with 4:50 to go.

A Comedy Of Errors

It quickly turned into a comedy of errors again. Agawam took the kickoff and like a cat with a hairball, coughed it up on its first run from scrimmage.

SEE AHS FOOTBALL - Page 38...



SENIOR WIDE RECEIVER Eric Melbourne had a big Thanksgiving Day for the AHS Brownies. In photo left, he is about to grab one of his four catches; in photo right, he wildly celebrates after a 50-yard TD catch early in the fourth quarter that put the Brownies ahead for good at 14-8. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

AHS FOOTBALL - from Page 37...

from the 28. The Terriers decided to go for the six pack with a second and three at the Agawam 13. Brian St. Jean picked Barker's pass in the end-zone to end the West Springfield threat. Neither offense could get anything going after that. The third quarter ended with the score 8-8.

West Side went into the final 12 minutes with the ball. They managed to set up camp on the Agawam 15. There, facing fourth and five, they decided to go for a field goal. At 33 yards, the attempt was within the range of Terrier kicker Mike Dickson. But he never got the chance. Pressure from the right side by Eric Melbourne resulted in a botched hold and a free roaming ball. The pigskin came to rest with the Brownies' name on it at their 28.

The offense, without Gallagher and facing gut check time, went to work. St. Jean ran for seven. Curto picked up three. St. Jean, eager in the option set, fumbled the snap from center and lost three. On second and 13 from the 35, St. Jean took a clean snap and swept right. He picked up 15 yards. The ball sat true at midfield. And the Brownies were looking at a first and 10.

West Side, not concerned about the Agawam option, packed it up tight. That mistake set up the next play. Melbourne, split wide on the left side, ran a five yard slant. "We worked on it all season. And it has worked when we have been in the situation to run it," Melbourne said. "Brian (St. Jean) put it right on the money," he added.

Melbourne caught the ball at the West Springfield 45 and outran the secondary for a 50 yard touchdown, his first of the season with 8:36 left. The two point conversion failed. Agawam, however, led 14-8, on a 72 yard, five play drive that took 2:12.

The Terriers ran into a brick wall on their next possession, punting the ball away. The Brownies set up shop at their 27, with 5:56 left. This series of plays, and there weren't many in it, marked the coming of age for sophomore quarterback Brian St. Jean. "Eventually, we knew Brian was going to break one," Gallagher observed. "We were counting on Brian getting a chance to run the ball more," Vecchiarelli.

After a Curto run and a pass play that saw the ball deflect off Marc Pedraza's hands into Melbourne's on the left flat for a gain of 12, Agawam had the ball at its own 41.

The call was an option, sweep right. St. Jean, who likes the movement afforded to him by the option action, had this to say, "Coach told me on that one, if I saw a crack, to tuck it up and run." He ignored Curto and his brother, Andy St. Jean (in for Gallagher), who were outriggers on the option play and did just that. A big cutback at the West Springfield 45 opened up the field. While the West Side defenders were frantically chasing about, St. Jean jacked it into overdrive and went down the left side for a 59 yard score with 4:40 left in the game. This TD march took only three plays, and covered 73 yards in 1:16. They didn't get the two point conversion. But the score was comfortable enough; 20-8, Brownies.

Brownie 'D' Sniffing The Turkey

Now the Brownie 'D' was sniffing the turkey. The Terriers were sniffing something else - the stale odor of defeat. They took the ball on their 30. A score was a must. The Terriers doggedly pushed the ball to the Brownie 39 yard line. Barker dropped and looked to the right corner. His pass was picked by senior Mike Wing at the three yard line. Wing was off to the races.

Melbourne, who had an angle on the play, was 10 yards ahead of the streaking Wing. One one Terrier had a chance to flaw this gem of an interception. At the 20 yard line, Melbourne drew a bead. "I wasn't sure how far away he was (the Terrier), but I knew I had to throw a block," Melbourne said later. The block was perfect - an in-your-face, stand-up job. Wing flew past and into the endzone for a score at 1:19. Planzo hit the extra point to make it 27-8.

Gallagher, watching from the sidelines, offered this. "Those two plays broke their backs." After that, the Terriers were looking for the fire hydrant. Tony Planzo recovered a fumble to end the game.

The Brownies ended their season at 3-6-1. West Side fell to 1-10.

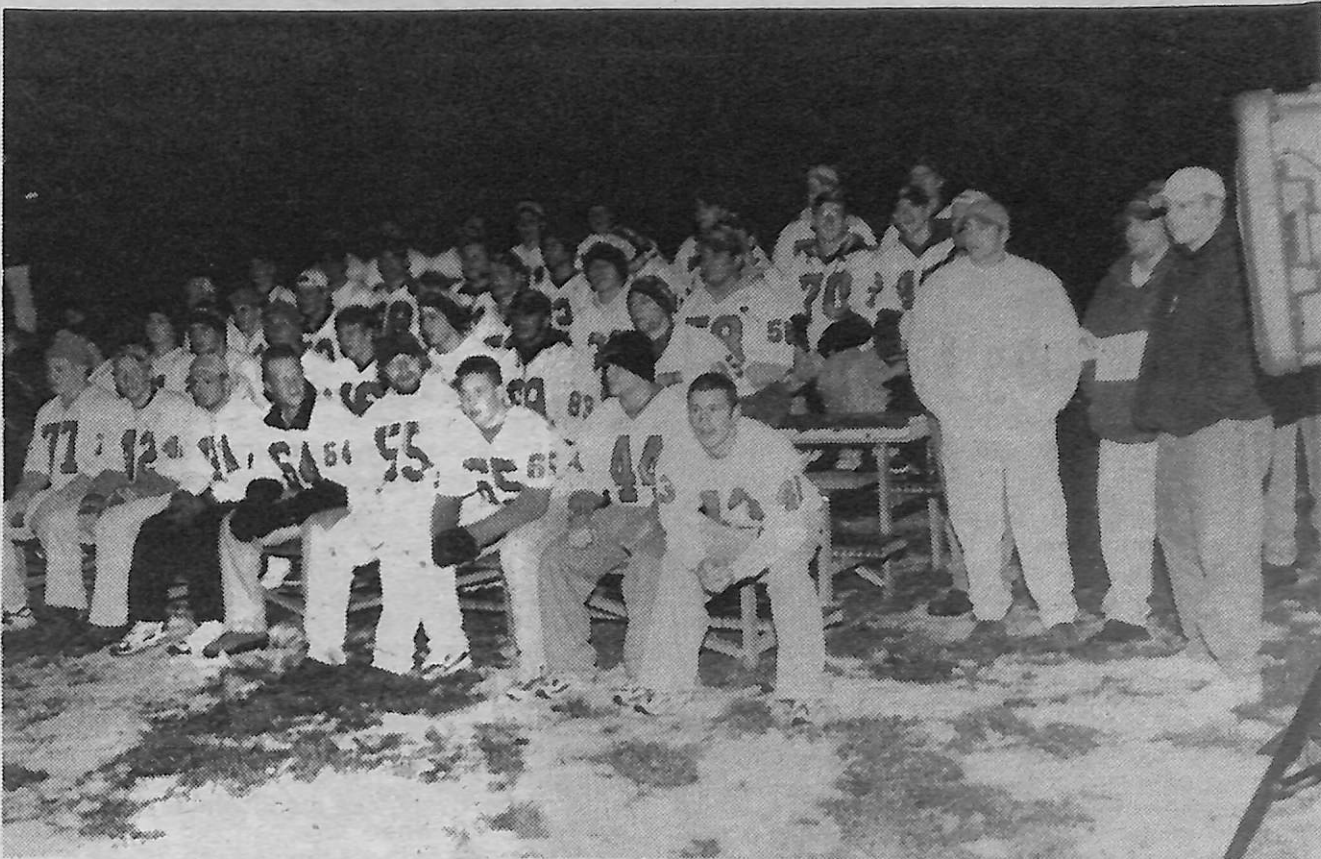
AGAWAM STATS: RUSHING: Brian St. Jean (7-106, 1 TD); Curto (12-22, 1 TD); Gallagher (7-30); **PASSING:** Brian St. Jean (9 attempts, 5 completions, 105 yards, 1 TD [50 yards]).

RECEIVING: Melbourne (4-94, 1 TD [50 yards]); Wing (1-11). **DEFENSE - INTERCEPTIONS:** Wing (97 yards, TD); B. St. Jean (1); Melbourne (1).

FUMBLE REC: Melbourne (1); Planzo (1).

BROWNIE NOTES: This was Agawam's second straight win in the series. In the last 10 years, West Side leads 6-4. Agawam leads overall, 48-21-3.

Brian Gallagher, who averaged 4.4 yards every time he got the ball, would have needed 23 carries to break the 1,000 yard barrier. He had seven for 30 in this one.



AT THE BONFIRE PEP RALLY at Harmon Smith Field on Wednesday evening, November 26th, members of the Agawam High football team view the proceedings. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS Football Hosted At Rotary Luncheon

SENIOR CAPTAINS of the Agawam High School football team were the guests of a joint luncheon by the Agawam and West Springfield Rotary Clubs. In top photo, from left - Mike Wing and Andy St. Jean, AHS captains; Chief Mawaga, school mascot; and Ryan Wilson and Vinnie Curto, AHS captains. IN PHOTO BELOW, from left - Timothy Ayre, Agawam Rotary president; William Shepard, West Springfield Rotary president; Suzanne Marotta, West Springfield superintendent of schools; and Kathleen McSweeney, Agawam High School athletic director. Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



Check our classified

Chris Rousseau Again Named All-Western Mass. Golfer

by Dave Rollins
Sports Editor

Agawam High golfer Chris Rousseau has been named to the All-Western Mass golf team. It's the second year in a row the junior has grabbed that honor. Chris led the team to an unbeaten season and first place in their division.

Chris wasn't too surprised that he made the team. "I had high expectations for myself this year. I don't think I played up to my potential, though," he said. Chris averaged 37.1 shots per round during the season. He was unbeaten in all the Brownie matches leading up to the Western Mass Tournament.

Chris feels his work off the tee is the strength of his game, especially when he plays at the Agawam Municipal Golf Course. "I can hit it pretty far. At Agawam, the fairways are wide. So if it goes off line a little, it really doesn't hurt me much," he said. He admits to adjusting somewhat when he encounters other, tighter courses.

"On them, I'll use a long iron off the tee when I can," he admits. If you've ever seen him play, you know that he can hit a two iron as far as a lot of people can hit a driver.

Chris smiled when he thought of people telling him to ease off on his tee shots in order to get a little more control over the direction of the ball. "I can't do that. I hit it far because I crush it."

What he will work on during the off-season is forming shot patterns. "Now, I'm trying to develop a little fade or a little draw off the tee and on the fairways. That way I can set myself up for the next shot." Chris admitted that he continually adjusted his grip and swing pattern during the past season. "I have to get back to feeling comfortable when I hit my shots. I really fiddled with my game. And that threw me off a bit."

Even though Chris is capable of 300-yard drives, he feels that, for him at least, the physical part is only 40 percent of his game. "That's why I'm working on the fade and draw. It's part of course management, being able to do the little things that take strokes off your score," he said.

Chris used professional golfer Corey Pavin as an example. "Look at Corey. He's not very big, but

he usually does well because he has all the shots. He's not a long hitter. But when he does let one loose, it goes exactly where he meant it to go. And he sets up all his shots from the one he just hit."

Benefits And Drawbacks...

This year, the golf season was switched from spring to fall. Chris saw some benefits, as well as a few drawbacks to that move. "The spring is usually warmer, which is nice. And we play under winter rules, so you can place your ball," he noted. Then he added, "But the courses are usually wet because of the rain. That can get kind of sloppy sometimes."

He noted that the fall is cooler and most of the courses are in peak condition. "This fall we had to cram our schedule together, though. It seemed like we were playing two or three matches a week. That was a little hectic," Chris said.

He also noted that towards the end of the season, they had to deal with frost. "They won't let anyone on the course until the sun has warmed up the greens. So in the Western Mass and State Tournaments, we had to wait for some time before we could tee off. It was a little tense," he said.

Chris doesn't plan to head anywhere warm during his school vacations to get in some practice rounds. "No, I'll stay around here. Maybe I can get some work in at the Agawam course before snow completely covers it. Some of the kids on the team do that — play the open fairways and holes."

One thing Chris would like to do is join a golf club with a driving range. "That way I could keep my timing and swing in a groove by hitting 200 or 300 balls a day," he said.

Chris plans on getting some help over the winter. He'll be taking lessons from the distinguished teaching pro Ken Doyle out of Simsbury, Connecticut.

"My dad got in contact with Ken through some people he knows at Oak Ridge (Golf Club)," Chris said. Then he added, "Ken is expensive, about \$120 an hour. But he does it all and gets results. So I'm looking forward to working with him."



Outdoors New England

by Kent Servis
Outdoor Writer

Deer Season Off To A Wet And Windy Start...

Bay State shotgunners began Monday's opener in a windy and wet fashion. Early reports indicate that hunter success, as well as hunter numbers, were down from previous years.

With wind chill factors in the teens throughout the valley and in the single numbers in the western hills, it was not a comfortable day for those who were out.

During these types of windy and cold conditions, the deer generally don't move around too much either. Try hunting on the sheltered sides of the hills and hunt slowly. Don't expect to see a whole deer standing in the forest. Check out thick juniper and hemlock stands, where the deer can bed down out of the wind, and out of sight as well.

Look for telltale body parts such as an ear or anything that seems out of place shape-wise. Many of us have had the startling experience of having a deer bolt from the underbrush just moments after we had passed it unnoticed.

A good pair of light-gathering binoculars can be a great help when it comes to finding well-concealed deer. Scope out an area in detail before proceeding forward. Try to identify everything in front of you and to either side.

Make a mental catalogue of what you see. Rock, stump, bush, rock, tree, stump, etc. Deer are masters at playing the hide and wait game. Their natural coloration causes them to blend in with the background quite well.

The largest deer that I have ever seen in the wild, had been lying down next to a fallen tree trunk. He had done such a good job of staying out of sight, that I passed within 10 feet and never saw him.

As soon as I had passed his location, he exploded from his location and bounded down the side of the hill, and was out of sight before I could even shoulder the gun. The moral of the story is to look at everything and to expect the unexpected.

Have a safe and productive week in the woods, and good luck!

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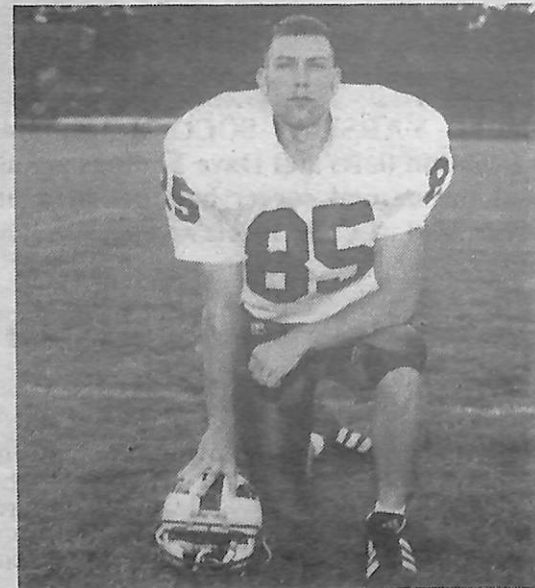
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To One Of Brownies Best In Final Year Of Football

Norm Gagne, we say with pride, has made us proud to call son, grandson, and nephew. In his last year of football, he continued to show the same enthusiasm and compassion for the game as he did when he started in 6th grade. We congratulate you, Norm, for your ability to get the job done, even though there were many struggles.



We love you and are very proud of you. Our number 85.

Class Of 1998 Honored At Soccer Banquet



AT THE ANNUAL SOCCER PARENTS banquet, girls' varsity captains (from left) - Jill DeMarco, Amber Conte, and Kristen Patterson all received high praise from Coach Mary Murray.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



CLASS OF 1998 members of the Agawam High School girls' varsity soccer team were all honored at the annual banquet on Sunday, November 23rd, at Chez Josef. Back row, from left - Jen Quigley, Amy Mastroianni, Julie Laflamme, Heather Archangeletti, and Jill DeMarco. Front row - Aimee Loudfoot, Vanessa Galluzzo, Amber Conte, Kristen Patterson, and Camilla Ringvold. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM VARSITY SOCCER captains Bryan O'Quinn (left) and Dave Thomas are all smiles at the annual soccer banquet held on November 23rd at Chez Josef. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Operation Friendship To Hold Ski Sale

Operation Friendship of America, a non-profit, youth cultural exchange program sponsored by the Feeding Hills Congregational Church, is having a Ski Sale and Swap on December 13th from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the Feeding Hills Congregational Church.

Professionals from Ski-In will be on hand to give advice and assistance. Consignments will be accepted on Friday, December 12th from 6:00-9:00 p.m.



SENIOR CLASS MEMBERS of the Agawam High School boys' varsity soccer team at the annual banquet on November 23rd at Chez Josef. Back row - Ryan Grealis, Gary Mantolesky, Stephen Charest, Jason Hanscom, and Lee Kunkler. Front row - Jack Biscoe, Bryan O'Quinn, Jay Moore, and Jay Murphy. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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Piranhas Swimmers Open Winter Season

The Agawam Piranhas held their first meet of the winter season on November 21, 1997. The team, with a roster of 83 swimmers, headed by coach Michelle Wheeler and assistant coach Danielle DeForge, lost against the Amherst team, 532-428, at the Agawam Junior High School. The results included:

Girls 8 & Under:

The team of Katelyn Morytko, Caitlin Hurley, Julie Gorman, and Taryn Dooley placed second in the 100-yard medley relay. Julie Gorman, second in 100-yard individual medley. Taryn Dooley, second, and Caitlin Hurley, third in 25-yard freestyle. Julie Gorman, second in 50-yard freestyle. Taryn Dooley, second, and Katelyn Morytko, third in 25-yard backstroke. Caitlin Hurley, second in 25-yard breaststroke.

Boys 8 & Under:

The team of Andrew Michalak, Adam Deliefde, Shaun Bruso, and Anthony Lee placed first in the 100-yard medley relay. Shaun Bruso, first in 100-yard individual medley. The team of Andrew Michalak, Antonne Mathes, Andrew Ardolino, and Anthony Lee placed first in the 100-yard freestyle relay. Anthony Lee, first, and Andrew Ardolino, third in 25-yard freestyle. Shaun Bruso, first in 25-yard butterfly. Adam Deliefde, second, and Andrew Michalak, third in 50-yard freestyle. Adam Deliefde, first in 25-yard breaststroke.

Girls 9-10:

The team of Gabrielle Brown, Johannah Kos, Jessica Lalli, and Tammy Gorman placed first in the 200-yard medley relay; and the team of Jennifer Clark, Kelly Follis, Kaitlin Bond, and Danielle Poggi placed third. Johannah Kos, first in 100-yard individual medley. Tammy Gorman, first in 50-yard freestyle. Tammy Gorman, second in 50-yard butterfly. Jessica Lalli, first in 100-yard freestyle. Jessica Lalli, first in 50-yard backstroke. Johannah Kos, first, Kelly Follis, second, and

Gabrielle Brown, third in 50-yard breaststroke.

Boys 9-10:

Anthony Ardolino, second, and Alan Gallerani, third in 100-yard individual medley. The team of William Barker III, Connor Dooley, Alan Gallerani, and Matthew Styckiewicz placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay. Doug Duquette, first, Matthew Styckiewicz, second, and William Barker III, third in 50-yard freestyle. Jeffrey Lagasse, first in 50-yard butterfly. Jeffrey Lagasse, second, and Erik Deliefde, third in 100-yard freestyle. Erik Deliefde, first in 50-yard backstroke. Anthony Ardolino, first, and Alan Gallerani, second in 50-yard breaststroke.

Girls 11-12:

The team of Allison Morris, Lindsay Carey, Jillian Kos, and Brittany Theriaque placed second in the 200-yard medley relay. Lindsay Carey, third in 200-yard individual medley. Jillian Kos, first in 200-yard freestyle. Brittany Theriaque, third in 50-yard freestyle. Katie Gorman, second, and Lindsay Carey, third in 50-yard butterfly. Katie Gorman, second in 100-yard freestyle. Erin Milillo, third in 50-yard backstroke. Jillian Kos, second in 50-yard breaststroke.

The team of Rebecca Carey, Allison Morris, Brittany Theriaque, and Katie Gorman placed second in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Boys 11-12:

The team of Daniel Adamski, Thomas Gorman, Kyle Sullivan, and Paul Lagasse placed second in the 200-yard medley relay.

Thomas Gorman, second, and Paul Lagasse, third in 200-yard individual medley. Daniel Adamski, first in 200-yard freestyle. Kyle Sullivan, second, and Kyle Henry, third in 50-yard freestyle. Paul Lagasse, third in 50-yard butterfly. Daniel Adamski, first, and Michael Lalli, third in 100-yard freestyle. Kyle Sullivan, first, and Michael Lalli, second in 50-yard backstroke. Thomas Gorman, second in 50-yard breaststroke.

The team of Kyle Henry, David Torrey, Michael Lalli, and Phillip Prouty placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Girls 13-14:

The team of Jennifer Grimaldi, Amanda Boissonneault, Kimberly Chmura, and Rebecca Morytko placed second in the 200-yard medley relay.

Hilary Golas, first in 200-yard individual medley. Rebecca Morytko, second, and Daveen Macsata, third in 200-yard freestyle. Kyleigh Egan, first, and Kimberly Chmura, second in 50-yard freestyle. Hilary Golas, second in 100-yard butterfly. Kyleigh Egan, first, and Rebecca Morytko, third in 100-yard freestyle. Amanda Boissonneault, third in 100-yard breaststroke.

The team of Kyleigh Egan, Amanda Boissonneault, Daveen Macsata, and Hilary Golas placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay; and the team of Jennifer Grimaldi, Kristine Archambault, Renee Couture, and Ashley King placed third.

Boys 13-14:

Nathan Adamski, first in 200-yard freestyle. Jason St. George, second in 50-yard freestyle. Nathan Adamski, first in 100-yard butterfly. Michael Follis, third in 100-yard backstroke. Michael Follis, third in 100-yard breaststroke.

The team of Jason St. George, Kevin Grimaldi, Michael Follis, and Nathan Adamski placed first in the 200-yard freestyle relay.

Girls 15-18:

Hilary King, first, and Katie Gallagher, second in 50-yard freestyle. Katie Gallagher, first in 100-yard freestyle. Hilary King, first in 100-yard backstroke. Katie Gallagher, first in 100-yard breaststroke.

Boys 15-18:

Matthew Francis, first in 50-yard freestyle, first in 100-yard freestyle, and first in 100-yard backstroke.

Agawam Rec. Dept. Needs Hoop Officials

The Recreation Department is currently accepting applications for basketball officials and scorekeepers. Applicants must be 16 years or older to be eligible for employment.

Applications are available at the Recreation Office, 760 Cooper St., Agawam. For more information, call the Agawam Recreation Office at 821-0514.

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Baywest Hockey Roundup

Baywest Panthers Off To Good Start In Youth Hockey

On Saturday, November 29th, the Bay West Panthers (Squirt B division) opened their season in a winning fashion by beating a tough Amherst team.

The game started with Amherst jumping out to a 1-0 lead. The Panthers quickly evened the score on a goal by Ryan Harlow with a nice assist from Ed Gaiser. David Suchy then put Bay West ahead, 2-0, on an unassisted goal, then Anthony Santinello followed with a goal of his own (assisted by Matt Woodward) to increase the Panther lead to 3-1 at the end of the second period.

The third period started with Amherst scoring to close the lead to 3-2. Amherst scored again to knot the score at 3-3. The play went back and forth with excellent chances for both sides. Bay West finally broke back out front on a goal by Mike Brouillette with 24 seconds left in the game which resulted in a 4-3 Bay West win.

On Sunday, November 30th, the Panthers went up against Ludlow and Bay West came out storming with Jon Wagner, Dave Suchy, and Adam Corbin taking good shots on goal.

Adam Corbin found the back of the net at 4:32 of the first period for an unassisted goal to give Bay West a 1-0 lead. Ludlow then was called for a penalty to give the Panthers a power play opportunity which they took advantage of the extra player as Anthony Santinello scored at the 7:28 mark of the first period with the assist going to Dave Suchy.

The second period started with Ludlow having a power play opportunity from a penalty on Alex Demers but the Panthers killed off the penalty.

Then on another Ludlow scoring chance, the Panthers' goaltender, Tony Boido, made an outstanding glove save. Ryan Harlow followed with a great shot on goal only to be foiled by a good save.

Anthony Santinello then scored his second goal of the game to give Bay West a 3-0 lead. The Panthers kept the pressure on as Mike O'Neil scored with the assist going to Jon Wagner for a 4-0 lead.

Anthony Santinello followed with a goal to complete his hat trick to extend the Bay West lead to 5-0. The goal was assisted by Alex Demers. The Panthers put on the defensive lock in the third period, not allowing Ludlow to get even close to goaltender Tony Boido, who posted his first shutout of the season.

The defensive corps of Joey Zmuda, Matt Woodward, Alex Demers, and Ed Gaiser played an excellent game in keeping the Ludlow team from getting close to the goal. Coach Steve Brouillette was extremely pleased with the fine play on Sunday, especially in the third period.

Baywest Bantam A Team Wins Three Games In A Row

After a recent 2-1 loss to Holy Name, the Baywest Bantam A team regrouped and came back strong last weekend to win three in a row.

In the first game against Pittsfield, the opponents got on the board first at 9:21 of the first period. Seth Cassidy scored to tie it up with 59 seconds left in the first period. Matt Doe got credit for the assist.

John Tisdell scored the only other goal of the game at 2:25 in the third period on a play set up by Jason Callahan. It proved to be the game-winning goal, as Baywest was able to prevent Pittsfield from scoring again with several excellent defensive plays accompanied by the excellent goaltending of Matt Bocchino.

That same night, Baywest took on the Worcester Ice Devils, a select hockey team from central Massachusetts. Down 2-0 after the first period, Baywest fought back hard and came up with the next four goals. Matt Doe put Baywest on the board first when Seth Cassidy slipped him the puck for behind the net. Mike Kosinski scored next, also assisted by Cassidy.

Doe scored again on a pass from Kosinski, and Andy Lang skated past the defense to put the puck in the upper corner of the net. Jason Callahan got the assist.

With 1:29 to go in the second period, Cassidy put the puck right on the stick of Kosinski, who wasted no time putting it past the Devils' goalie. Leading 5-3 in the third, Jeff Smrecek scored off a pass from Lang. Mike Kosinski got the last two goals, assisted by Cassidy and Tony Kosinski. The final score was 8-4!

Lastly, Baywest met with the Springfield Capitals. Despite a very early 7:00 a.m. game time, this game proved to be a very physical game with many penalties called for both sides.

Doe scored the only goal in the first period, assisted by Cassidy and Kosinski. Kosinski put Baywest on the board in the second, assisted by Doe and defenseman Nick Paier.

Tisdell scored next on a nice play set up by Smrecek and Lane. Cassidy put one past the Caps' goalie at the end of the second period to make it 4-0. Doe and defenseman Mike Czepiel got the assists.

Lang scored in the third on a play set up by Smrecek and defenseman Sean Curley. It looked like goalie Matt Bocchino had earned another well-deserved shutout until a flurry of action broke out in front of his net and, with only one second to go, the puck got past him. Baywest won 5-1.

Congratulations, team! Way to go!

best local news

Baywest Glaciers Soar To 4-0-1 After Tri-City Win

The Baywest Glaciers went all out on a scoring spree last weekend and added two more wins to their impressive 4-0-1 record. Goalie Sarah Bishop refused to let one goal past her as she added two more shutouts to her record.

Coached by Tom Bokuniewicz and Val Partyka, the Glaciers have developed into a very competitive hockey team in the Squirt B level within the Greater Springfield League.

Saturday, the Glaciers faced off against Amherst. Mike Wood put the team on the board first at 5:20 in the first period. Johnny Bourassa was credited with the assist. T.J. Hamilton scored at 9:26 in the second period on a pass from Tyler Bokuniewicz. Eric Cassidy scored off his own rebound on a play set up by Steve Wood and defenseman Mike Landry.

Mike Wood scored in the third period this time assisted by T.J. Hamilton. Just 15 seconds later, Josh Edwards went in alone to score an unassisted goal. The final score was 5-0. Sarah Bishop was outstanding in the net.

On Sunday, the Glaciers met Tri-City and quickly began a scoring frenzy. Tri-City didn't know what hit them as the Glaciers rarely let the puck into their zone. Steve Wood was the first to put the puck past the Tri-City goalie assisted by Eric Cassidy in the first period.

T.J. Hamilton scored on a play set up by defenseman Jeremy Rogalski and Mike Wood. Alex Ciborowski scored on a slap shot that deflected into the net. Rogalski and Johnny Bourassa were credited with assists.

In the second period, Steve Wood scored next, set up by Josh Edwards and Julian Partyka. Rogalski scored after receiving a nice pass from Bourassa. Bourassa then put one of his own in the net assisted by Mike Wood.

Edwards beat the defense and scored to make it 7-0. Steve Wood got the assist. Rogalski scored again with just eight seconds left in the second period, set up by T.J. Hamilton and Steve Wood. Steve Wood scored an unassisted goal in the third period.

Bourassa scored the final goal, assisted by Bokuniewicz and Cassidy. The final score was 10-0! Great teamwork and excellent defense have made this team a real threat to their competition.

They remain undefeated with an impressive 6-0-1 record. Congratulations, team!

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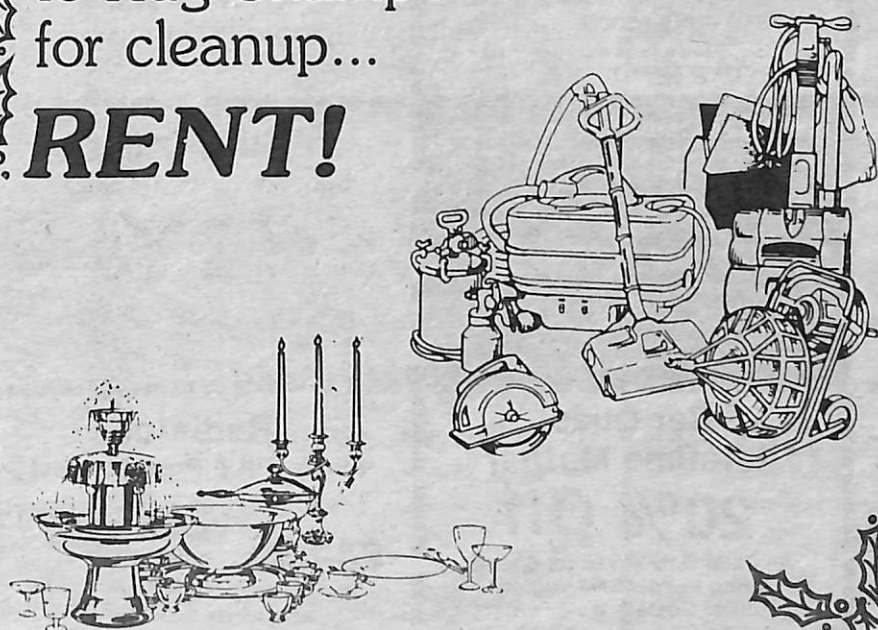
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Drop-In Basketball For Agawam Residents

Supervised drop-in basketball program for Agawam residents only will be offered on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 8:00-10:00 p.m. at the Agawam High School gym. The program began on December 1st.

Participants must be 18 years or older. Fee is \$2 per night payable to the supervisor at the door.

Recreational swim is open to the public on Monday evenings from 7:00-8:45 p.m. at the Agawam Junior High School pool. The pool is open when school is in session and closed for school vacations and holidays.

Fee is \$2 per person for six years-old and over; \$1 for children under six, payable to the lifeguard at the door.

Skate & Ski Sale By Longmeadow Lions

The Longmeadow Lions Club Skate and Ski Sale will be held Friday, December 5th from 6:00-9:00 p.m. and Saturday, December 6th from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at the Longmeadow Community House, Longmeadow Street.

Basketball Clinic To Be Conducted By AHS Girls' Brownies

On Saturday, December 13th, the Agawam High School girls' basketball Brownies will be conducting a basketball clinic in the AHS gymnasium from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Players in grades three through eight are encouraged to attend the clinic in order to have fun while learning basketball skills from the girls' varsity team.

The donation for the clinic is \$10 per participant, and the proceeds will be used towards the girls' Booster Club.

So, be sure to enjoy yourself on this day by participating in this clinic and meeting the players! Remember, we get out of life what we put into it...

Sign-Ups For Ag. Wrestling Club

Forms for the Agawam Wrestling Club are available in the Agawam Parks & Recreation Office between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

For further information, contact Dan Sullivan (786-6265) or Kirk Parker.

Ski Privilege Card Makes Good Gift During Holiday Season

The American Lung Association and nine downhill ski areas are preparing for the white, fluffy snow by sponsoring the 1997-98 Ski Privilege Book.

For a reduced price of \$39, the holder of the Ski Privilege Book can ski one time at each location either free or at a discount, Monday through Friday. The book includes free pass deals, buy-one-get-one-free deals, and free frequent skier cards at Mt. Tom, Butternut, and Wachusett Mountain, allowing for unlimited discounted skiing throughout the ski season. Discounts at three area ski shops are also included.

Participating ski areas are Berkshire East, Blandford, Bousquet, Butternut, Catamount, Jiminy Peak, Mt. Tom, Otis Ridge, and Wachusett Mountain. Discounts on merchandise and tune-ups are also available at the Colorado Ski Outlet, Competitive Edge, and Wildwater Outfitters.

One-hundred percent of funds raised through the Ski Privilege Book will help the American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts' asthma programs in Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin, and Berkshire Counties.

For more information or to order the Ski Privilege Book, please call the American Lung Association at 413-737-3506 or 800-LUNG-USA.

check our classified pages every week

LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM PLANNING BOARD & TOWN COUNCIL

The Agawam Planning Board and Agawam Town Council will hold a joint public hearing on Monday, December 15, 1997 at 7:30 PM, Agawam Middle School, 68 Main Street, Agawam, MA. The purpose of this hearing will be to hear the petition of the Agawam Planning Board for a proposed amendment to the Agawam Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 180, to allow for provisions to regulate "Personal Wireless Service Facilities, Towers and

Repeaters" and to amend the Agawam Zoning Map, Chapter 180, Section B by the creation of a Wireless Telecommunications Overlay District. The district includes the following properties: N15-1-1, K3-3-1, H13-1-21, H3-1-24, H3-1-19, H3-1-22, E2-1-6, F6-1-1, D10-1-6, B14-1-4, B14-1-3, B14-1-5, G7-1-3, G1-1-4, G7-2-6, G6-1-1, H8-1-5, and F6-2-2, G7-3-1, G6-3-6, G7-1-8, H7-2-4, G6-1-7, H7-2-3, G6-1-3, G7-2-2, G6-1-8, G6-1-4, G5-6-1, H7-2-2, F7-2-2, G5-6-2, G5-6-2, G6-3-4, H8-1-1, G7-2-3, G6-3-5, H8-1-1, G8-1-14, G7-1-1, G7-1-2, G7-2-1, H5-1-5, H5-1-6, H5-1-1, I5-1-6, I5-1-5. These properties are included by reason of their potential to provide technically feasible and accessible

locations for the siting of facilities which can provide adequate wireless telecommunications services to the Town of Agawam. A copy of the proposed zoning amendments and overlay district map can be obtained from the Agawam Planning Office or the Agawam Town Clerk's Office between the hours of 8:30 AM and 4:30 PM in the Agawam Town Hall, 36 Main Street, Agawam, MA.

BY ORDER OF:

Charles R. Calabrese, Chairman,
Agawam Planning Board

Ursula Retzler
Clerk of the Council

Published: December 4, 1997

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Broderick Coming Back To Riverside For 1998 Season

One of the region's hottest drivers will make Riverside Park Speedway his hometrack in 1998. Jimmy Broderick of Brookfield, Connecticut, NASCAR's Winston Racing Series New England Region Champion and the 1997 WRS Modified track titlist at Connecticut's Stafford Motor Speedway, has made a commitment to run the entire Riverside season.

"It's like getting an early Christmas present," said Riverside Speedway Director of Racing Joe Lewandoski. "Getting a driver of Jimmy Broderick's caliber is a big boost for us. He'll be a great addition to our Tour-Type Modified lineup."

Broderick will drive the same Mopar-powered Modified owned by New Milford, Connecticut's Denis Pruchnik in which he won the Stafford championship over Steve Chowansky in 1997. In all, Broderick won eight races in the Pruchnik ride and 12 overall, tying him for the most victories in New England with NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour and Busch North Series competitor Mike Stefanik.

"It's going to be a big challenge for me racing weekly against drivers like Ted Riggott and Reggie Ruggiero," Broderick said. "It's definitely a step up."

Broderick last competed at Riverside during the 1982 and '83 season when he raced a modified and was a consistent winner of the track's small-block bonus award. After racing on Long Island in the late 1970's, Broderick competed for two years at the now-closed Danbury Fairgrounds Racearena in 1980-81 and remains as the only driver from the track's modified division to still be in racing.

In addition to his regional and Stafford titles, Broderick was the 1995 and '96 Modified Division track champion at the Waterford, Connecticut Speedbowl and finished eighth in points there last year while winning five races. He has recorded 22 feature-event wins at Waterford. Along with six wins at Stafford and five at Waterford, Broderick won the SK Modified portion of Icebreaker 97 at Thompson International Speedway.

Broderick will join an already strong modified field at Riverside which includes Ted Riggott, last year's points champions; many-time champ Reggie Ruggiero; Renee Dupuis, Tom Jensen, Eddy Spiers, and last year's Modified Rookie of the Year, Joe Czarnecki.

Riverside Announces Opening Dates Of 1998 Race Season

Riverside Park will kick-off the 1998 New England racing season over the March 28th-29th weekend. A full program of racing is scheduled, highlighted by the NASCAR Featherlite Modified Tour season's opener.

A 21-week Winston Racing Series schedule will begin on Saturday night, April 18th.

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2 2 0 4
1 1 1 3
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U-10 GIRLS
Whip's Wildcats
Blue Hot Shots
Agawam/Brewster
Voyagers

W L T P
2 0 0 4
1 1 0 2
1 1 0 2
0 2 0 0

U-14 GIRLS
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W L T P
2 1 0 4
2 0 0 4
0 3 0 0

U-14 BOYS
Rockets
Southwick
Dynamos

W L T P
2 0 0 4
1 0 0 2
0 3 0 0

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS
Tri-Town
Agawam
Holyoke
Dante Club
West Side

W L T P
3 0 0 6
2 1 0 4
2 2 0 4
1 2 0 2
0 3 0 0

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS
Agawam/Pearson
Holyoke S.C. No. 2
Valley S.C. Maroon
Agawam/Kelly
Holyoke S.C. No. 1
Valley S.C. Orange
Westfield Berzerkers
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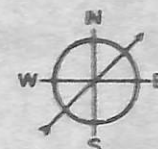
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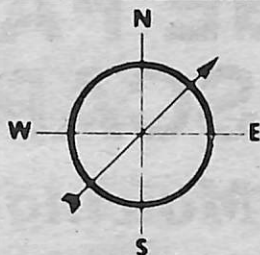
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